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State, Government Leaders Arrive in Moscow for CIS Summit

Nazarbayev, Rakhmanov, Akayev, Niyazov Comment

LD2309212193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] CIS leaders have been arriving in Moscow for the CIS summit due to open with a closed session in the Kremlin's Catherine Hall at 14:00 on Friday [24 September]. At 15:00, Presidents and Premiers will get together for a plenary session at the President-Hotel. The main issue on the agenda is the draft of an economic integration treaty.

Here are the exclusive interviews given by some CIS leaders to our correspondent Boris Grishenko at the Vnukovo-2 government airport.

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who arrived in Moscow on Thursday to attend the summit of heads of CIS states, told our INTERFAX correspondent that, as he believes, the leaders would sign documents on the creation of an economic union of the Commonwealth's countries on Friday. He underlined that all these documents had been prepared and "I personally have nothing to add."

Nazarbayev reported that on Wednesday he had telephone talks with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov. In Nazarbayev's words, heads of these states intend to become associate members of the future economic union. Making no comments on this decision, Nazarbayev specially emphasized that creation of the union will help to better coordinate not only internal ties and the foreign economic course but foreign policy as well." "However, there is no talking about restoration of the USSR," he declared.

The Kazakh president believes that the European Economic Community should serve as a model for the economic union of CIS countries. "I was persuaded in this while conversing with French President Francois Mitterrand during his recent visit to Kazakhstan."

Nazarbayev views "operative work on formation of the union's working bodies" as the main task on the way to the economic union. In his words, Russia and Kazakhstan undertake the most active efforts in this direction.

As the Kazakh president said, he met the message on Azerbaijan's joining the CIS "with great approval." "I am sure that other countries on the territory of the former USSR are also thinking over their historical fate, as those states which do not join the economic union will undoubtedly face quite different requirements in the economic sphere," underlined the Kazakh president.

I am sure that at this complex historic moment the people of Russia will find wisdom and strength to back up the bold steps taken by their president to overcome the power crisis in Russia, Nazarbayev said.

Even one hour after President Yeltsin's decree had been published, I talked to Chernomyrdin by telephone, Nazarbayev reported. That conversation revealed the identify of our views.

Nazarbayev recalled that at the height of the confrontation between the executive and legislative branches in March and September, he had twice visited Moscow and had long conversations with Khasbulatov and Yeltsin. One conversation in March, he said, was requested by Khasbulatov, who "asked for my assistance to rapprochement with Yeltsin." However, that mission resulted in the stormy Congress of People's Deputies in March, a forum that "was implicit in insulting the country's President." Nazarbayev spoke highly of Yeltsin's patience and tolerance when he chose a referendum instead of tough measures against the Congress.

Nazarbayev then admitted that when he had been in Moscow on September, he had tried to persuade Khasbulatov to try to come to terms with the President. Recalling his talks with Boris Yeltsin, he gave much credit to his readiness to pursue constitutional reforms by legitimate constitutional means. Contacts with Khasbulatov, in Nazarbayev's words, resulted in "fresh public insults" toward the democratically elected head of state. Nazarbayev stressed that initiatives to recreate the USSR stemmed from none other than the Supreme Soviet.

"The Tajiks regard September 24 as an historic date," Tajik Parliament Chairman Imamali Rakhmanov said. "This alliance (economic)," he stressed "is vital and simply indispensable for Tajikistan. It is not merely reconstruction of the national economy but conditions for its functioning that is at issue. The final goal is to provide in the best possible way for dynamic and harmonious economic development and higher living standards."

Rakhmanov voiced conviction that cooperation with CIS countries, above all with Russia, and a single economic community, will enable Tajikistan to speed up its development.

On the latest developments in Russia, he declared that the Tajik Supreme Soviet and people "fully support Boris Yeltsin's position and his resolute steps to remove all obstacles to reform in Russia.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev especially emphasized the importance of the CIS economic union for such "small countries as Kyrgyzstan." The economic union does not represent any threat to our sovereignty and the documents which we are to sign on Friday will provide for a flexible and just approach in solving difficult economic problems facing Kyrgystan," Akayev told our INTERFAX correspondent on his arrival to Moscow. He underlined, "Our country declared about its resolve to become a member of the economic union."

Economic integration within CIS, in Akayev's view, "does not undermine the sovereignty of participant-countries in any way." In his opinion, the national currency - som - will

not be an obstacle to intensive commodities exchange between the economic union members. At the same time, the President believes that the RF ruble will play in the Economic Union a role similar to that of ecu in the European Economic Community.

On his arrival in Moscow on Thursday, Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov declared to our INTERFAX correspondent that the position of his country, namely to become an associate member of the economic union, is primarily caused by the fact that since November 1 the republic is to introduce its own national currency. However, he said the associate membership in the union also entails active cooperation, moreover, the union is open for everybody and gives the opportunity to revise decisions in the future.

He emphasized that Russia got priority in Turkmenistan's economic strategy and in its political orientation. "We have nothing to argue about with Russia and have eagerly resolved all economic, border, and military issues."

Niyazov reported that in introducing its national currency, Turkmenistan would rely on the agreements with the Central Bank of Russia.

Turkmenistan wants political stability to prevail and reforms to succeed in Russia, the president said and stressed that his administration had been increasingly worried over the situation in Moscow. We fully support the steps taken by the President of Russia, Niyazov said.

Statements by Aliyev, Zvyagalskiy

LD2309205493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1807 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—"The session of (Azerbaijan's) parliament on 20 September adopted a decision on Azerbaijan's intention to become a full member of the CIS," Geydar Aliyev stated in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent after arriving in Moscow today. The Azerbaijan leader stressed that Azerbaijan "on becoming a full member of the Commonwealth will sign the treaty on collective security and maybe also the economic treaty." Geydar Aliyev expressed the hope that "Azerbaijan with its economic potential will be able to occupy a suitable place in the economic commonwealth."

According to a report from Yerevan, Armenia has the right to set conditions for Azerbaijan connected to the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict and the lifting of the blockade on transport communications continued by the Azerbaijan side before its entrance into the CIS. This was stated today by Aram Abramyan, the Armenian president's press secretary, in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. From the point of view of the Armenian leadership's spokesman it is absolutely inadmissible that one CIS state should blockade another, which is recognized as a form of military action. The press secretary reported that Armenia will sign the treaty on an economic union of CIS states. In Yerevan it is believed that this document will open up possibilities for the further integration of CIS states.

Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagalskiy said upon his arrival in Moscow that Ukraine's position on the issue of entering an economic union of CIS states is most suited to the status of associated membership. "We have still to study in detail the draft agreement on the creation of a union and take from it only what suits Ukraine," Yefimr Zvyagalskiy stressed. The acting prime minister added that Ukraine considers its economic strategy within the framework of the CIS to be "a struggle for markets in Russia, Kazakhstan and other CIS states."

Remarks by Shushkevich, Snegur, Patsatsia

LD2309193993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] "I'm pinning my hopes on the generosity of Russia, because Belarus, due to its history, is not doing too well economically and financially," said Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich. He arrived in Moscow on Thursday [23 September] to take part in the CIS summit, which is expected to seal an economic union of Commonwealth states.

"My attitude to such a union was, is, and will be only positive," Shushkevich told Interfax, adding it was shared by the entire Belarusian society. "We've come with a very serious intention to sign an agreement on an economic union," he said. What was particularly important, he said, was a financial treaty necessary to create a single and stable financial system for the CIS. Without that, proper relations between member states of the economic union would be impossible, he said.

Shushkevich said it was at his suggestion that Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev had been invited to the Moscow summit. "I'm sure the Commonwealth will be increasing and getting stronger, but this does not mean that the young independent states will sacrifice their sovereignty for their economic interests," he said.

Although the Moldovan Parliament has voted against the country joining the CIS, President Mircea Snegur said on his arrival in Moscow on Thursday that the Parliament Presidium and 174 deputies had authorized him to sign the economic union agreement. "Moldova must be an active member of the union," he said.

Taking half-hearted economic measures was the wrong practice, all former Soviet republics having realized this, he said. "We have tasted the bitter fruits of self-isolation and have felt the harm done by customs barriers, which are an obstacle to creating an efficiently functioning economic area," he said.

Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, who also arrived in Moscow, told Interfax that, although Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze was unable to come to the meeting due to the aggravation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, he was very much interested in what would happen at the summit.

Patsatsia made it clear that the Georgian leadership did not rule out that the country would join the CIS.

CIS Executive Secretary Meets Yeltsin Ahead of Summit

LD2309113893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1022 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—Russian President Boris Yeltsin received CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya today. They discussed the main aspects of the meeting of CIS leaders, scheduled to take place in Moscow on 24 September, says a report from the president's press service.

The preliminary agenda includes pressing matters of widening and deepening the economic integration of sovereign states and the strengthening of the CIS. They had a serious conversation about the role of the Executive Secretariat in implementing the main points of the treaty on setting up the economic union, which is expected to be signed at the Moscow summit.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers also received Ivan Korotchenya today.

Summit Agenda Outlined

LD2409082193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0312 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] According to the preliminary agenda, today's summit in Moscow is to open with a sitting of the Council of Heads of CIS Governments at 0900. At 1200 a closed session of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of the Governments will be held in St. George's Hall of the Great Kremlin Palace. Two hours later the presidents and heads of government of the Commonwealth countries will assemble for a plenary session.

After the documents have been signed a news conference on the results of the Moscow meeting will be held at 1700.

Yeltsin Addresses Heads of State Council Meeting

LD2409101893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—A sitting of the CIS Council of Heads of State has just opened in St. Catherine's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. Opening the sitting, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that the meeting "will be crucial in the history of the CIS." The heads of state are to examine 18 issues on the agenda, primarily setting up a Commonwealth Economic Union.

At the morning sitting, the heads of the CIS states agreed to recommend to the presidents that they sign a treaty on setting up an Economic union.

At Yeltsin's request, the morning sitting is being chaired by Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet.

According to the preliminary schedule of today's CIS "summit," the ceremony of the signing of the treaty is due to take place at about 1630 at the capital's "President Hotel."

It is expected that at about 1400 Azerbaijan will become a full member of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The CIS heads of state will take part in the ceremony of accepting Azerbaijan into the Commonwealth. It will be held in the Kremlin.

Expresses Thanks for Support

LD2409104993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Boris Yeltsin expressed gratitude today to all the CIS leaders "for solidarity with and support for the measures, taken recently to protect the ideas of democracy and civil peace in Russia."

When opening the CIS summit in the Kremlin today, he said that he regarded the current meeting as the "manifestation of the resolve to continue the joint advance along the path of reforms and to strengthen the Commonwealth of Independent States."

"Despite the fact that really unusual measures were taken within the past several days, I assure you that public order is being maintained both in Moscow and all over Russia, and will continue to be maintained in the forthcoming days. So, do not get worried," he stressed.

"We all feel and realise that this meeting will be of crucial importance for the future of the CIS. The signing of the documents, prepared for our meeting, may set the beginning of real full-scale cooperation on a vast economic space for the sake of the prosperity of our states," he continued. According to President Yeltsin, this factor is decisive, to some extent, for the overcoming of the economic crisis by the CIS member state.

Yeltsin's Actions Backed

LD2409142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1323 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The participants of the CIS summit meeting, which opened here in the Kremlin today, expressed, before getting down to the discussion of the agenda items, their unanimous solidarity with the Russian president and their support for Boris Yeltsin's measures to surmount the constitutional crisis, uphold democracy and ensure public peace in the country.

According to information released by the press service of the Russian president, the CIS heads of state said that they regarded the economic and political reforms in Russia, the guarantor of which President Yeltsin is at the present

stage, as the most important precondition for peaceful development on the entire territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Chernomyrdin Opens Heads of Government Council Session

LD2409065293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0532 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—The session of the council of heads of government of Commonwealth countries opened this morning in the Moscow President Hotel. Heads of government of 11 CIS countries are taking part in the session, which is being chaired by Viktor Chernomyrdin. Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia is attending the session as an observer.

The premiers have 17 issues to discuss, the central one being the treaty on the creation of the economic union.

Opening the session, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that at present "Russia is experiencing difficult times, but the economy is working; the country is continuing on and the people is getting down to business."

The Russian premier stated that today's CIS meeting in Moscow expresses support for Russia by the CIS countries at a difficult time.

Prime Ministers Initial Treaty

LD2409082493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0705 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—Prime ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, who are attending the session of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS member states, now under way here, have initialled a treaty on the creation of an economic alliance. Turkmenistan and Ukraine are going to join the alliance as associated members, a source close to the Russian State Committee for Economic Cooperation with CIS Member States told ITAR- TASS.

The treaty is expected to be signed today after 15.00 by presidents of the CIS member states. According to the source, there still exists a possibility of Turkmenistan and Ukraine joining the treaty as full members.

Chernomyrdin Briefs Journalists

LD2409085993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0805 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—In two and half hours of work at Moscow's President Hotel, heads of CIS Governments discussed all 17 questions on the agenda of the meeting. "The most important is that we adopted a decision to set up an economic union," said Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers to journalists.

He added that Ukraine has a number of objections to the treaty on setting up the economic union, and it is possible that it will join the union as an associated member. Experts were instructed to work out all the questions within the next hour and to prepare their proposals in order to enable Ukraine to join the union as a full member. "I would really like that," underlined the Russian prime minister.

"I believe that today we achieved a great deal; we agreed to set up an economic union," said Viktor Chernomyrdin. He said that in the afternoon the Council of Heads of Governments would recommend to the leaders of Commonwealth countries to sign the treaty on economic union.

Ukraine Not To Sign Treaty on Economic Union

LD2409134093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Report by correspondent Yulian Semenov; from the "Panorama" program; in Moscow on 24 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified announcer] Today in Moscow, in the Yekaterininskiy Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace, President Boris Yeltsin opened a sitting of the Council of the CIS Heads of State. Earlier today, at a sitting of the Council of Heads of Government, its participants agreed to recommend that the presidents sign a treaty on setting up the CIS economic union. The signing ceremony is to start in about half an hour at the President Hotel in the capital. Just now our observer Yulian Semenov, who is in the President Hotel, is on the line to our studio. Let us listen to what he has to say.

[Semenov] Well, I can confirm the facts you have just given to Mayak listeners. [passage omitted]

A statement has been circulated here on behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, saying that Ukraine supports the general policy of strengthening friendship, cooperation, and improving economic links. The statement points out that Ukraine took part in drawing up the treaty on the economic union and contributed as much as it could to the process. I can add to this that this morning, amendments were introduced in the text of the treaty, taking into consideration Ukraine's wishes. But despite all this, Ukraine will not sign this treaty—not even as an associated member. Leonid Kravchuk has said at a meeting in the Kremlin, and journalists have now been told the same, that Ukraine will conclude a separate agreement with this economic community on its participation in the work of its bodies and on individual aspects of the economic union's activity. [passage omitted]

INTERFAX Outlines Main Points of Economic Union Treaty

LD2309210793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By correspondents Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The CIS summit is expected to formally create an Economic Union [EU] in Moscow on September 24. Interfax gives the main points of the draft treaty.

Goals and principles. The Economic Union is based on voluntary participation, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, equal rights, and the signatories' mutual responsibility for the implementation of the Treaty.

The main goals of the EU: To provide for stable economic development in the Union states in order to improve their living standards and create equal opportunities and guarantees for all economic structures.

EU provides for: The free flow of commodities, services, capital and work force; coordinated fiscal, budget, tax, price and foreign economic policies.

An interstate Free Trade Association is to be set up to promote integration between the EU members and coordinate their economic reform efforts. To this end, customs duties and taxes are to be gradually reduced; Custom procedures are to be simplified; freight and passenger transportation tariffs are to be reduced stage by stage; and unauthorized re-export to third countries is to be curbed.

Enterprise and investment. EU members intend to assist the formation of joint ventures, transnational production complexes, a network of commercial and fiscal institutions, and coordinate their investment policy by attracting foreign investors and creditors to the fields of mutual interest.

Fiscal relations. EU members pledge to coordinate their fiscal policies through a multi-currency system, through the national currencies of separate states and through the RF [Russian Federation] ruble zone.

A fiscal system based on the national currencies will be devised stage by stage by setting up an account alliance to be subsequently transformed into a monetary union, using floating currency rates and fixing the limits of their mutual fluctuations.

The states that have accepted the RF ruble as their sole legal tender authorize the Bank of Russia to be their central (national bank) and pledge to pursue a single fiscal line and honor the rules and norms invoked in Russia.

Social policy. EU members guarantee their citizens visa-free travel across the Union. They deem it necessary to coordinate their labor relations policies and refrain from discrimination against citizens on ethnic or other grounds in employment, pay, working conditions, and social security.

Economic regulation in terms of law. EU members agree to uniform their economic relations and conform their national legislations to the current Treaty and international law.

For these purposes, experimental acts should be worked out to control economic relations; work should be carried out to coordinate and unify national legislation on the basis of experimental projects and international law and adopt national legislative acts on economic issues.

Conclusive remarks. EU membership is not an obstacle to economic ties with states outside the Union, with economic groups and communities, if that is not against EU interests.

If a state accepts only part of the commitments on this Treaty, it can be admitted as an associated member with the EU countries consent.

The Treaty will be concluded for 10 years to be automatically prolonged for the subsequent five-year periods unless any of its signatories publicly terminates its membership.

Each EU member can declare its withdrawal from the Union by announcing its plans no less than 12 months in advance of its declaration.

CIS Defense Ministers Council Meets, Initials Documents

LD2409125193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1153 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—There are two major items on the agenda of a session of the CIS Council of Heads of State which opened on Friday [24 September] at 3:00 p.m. at Moscow's "President Hotel": Creating allied defence forces at Tajikistan's territory and reorganizing the chief commandment of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Before noon, these documents were initialed at a working session of Commonwealth's Council of Defence Ministers held at the headquarters of chief commandment of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Interparliamentary Assembly Meeting Postponed Indefinitely

LD2309212593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 23 TASS—At the proposal of some CIS parliaments, the meeting of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly scheduled for September 25 will be postponed indefinitely, a spokesman for the assembly secretariat told TASS.

Officials of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly headquarters decline to give any comments on the current events in Moscow, since they believe this to be regarded as interference into the internal affairs of the host country.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 24 Sep

LD2409060993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0512 GMT 24 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—All newspapers, received by ITAR-TASS today, continue to highlight the situation in the Russian Federation over the past several days.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries a detailed report of its correspondents about what took place in the "White House" on September 23, but does not comment on the situation.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an article of its correspondent about the meeting, held by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on September 23, which is entitled "the army will not surrender to provocations and will not rise in arms against its own nation." The conference was attended by deputy defence ministers and commanders-in-chief of all the armed services. The article stresses grachev's words that "in accordance with our doctrine, the Armed Forces will never rise in arms against their own nation. No matter wheter the Armed Forces like their nation or not, it is their own nation, the Russian nation."

Most of the materials published by PRAVDA comment on the presidential decree, dated September 21. The newspaper carries short interviews with "leaders of the country"—Ruslan Khasbulatov and Aleksandr Rutskoy. The essence of Khasbulatov's statements is that it is necessary to "come to the defence of representative power and the constitutional system, against the putsch." Rutskoy was more outspoken. He said that "a general political strike is the only thing that could save Russia and the nation."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries several documents that came to its editorial board from the administration of President Yeltsin. The newspaper publishes full texts of the "Appeal of the president of the Russian Federation—commander of the Armed Forces" and "Regulations on the federal bodies of power for the transitional period."

"It is most deplorable that the current executive authorities are making the same political mistakes, as the previous ones," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes, commenting on the termination of publication of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

PRAVDA reports that "in order to express solidarity with its colleagues and protest against the attempt on glasnost and the basic rights and freedoms of compatriots," it is giving one of its pages of its Moscow issue today to materials of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

Monetary, Nuclear Agreements Signed With Kazakhstan

LD2309115693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0923 GMT 23 Sep 93

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 23 September—Today on Staraya Ploshchad the heads of Government of Russia and Kazakhstan signed intergovernment agreements on the monetary system of Kazakhstan joining the monetary system of Russia and on cooperation between the two countries in the sphere of using nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

The agreement on the unification of the monetary systems supplements the agreement "On practical measures for creating a new type ruble zone" signed by Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan on 7 September. Kazakhstan has become the fifth and latest state to sign the necessary additional document as part of the hexapartite framework agreement with Russia.

Answering journalists' questions after a signing ceremony, Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko noted that the agreement signed today on unification of the monetary systems is very important for the stabilization of the economic situation in Kazakhstan.

Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the bilateral documents signed come before the summit of the CIS heads of government that opens in Moscow at 0900 in the morning tomorrow. Its main purpose is to prepare a treaty on creating an economic alliance for signing by the heads of state tomorrow. "Everyone is waiting for the creation of the alliance, it will benefit all the states. Incidentally, the question is not about, let's say, Russia wanting to be in charge [komandovat] of other countries. We need to join efforts in order to solve problems in each of the countries in a more effective way," he stressed.

Prime Ministers Comment

LD2309143993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian capital's residents and guests could observe what was essentially ordinary, everyday life going on in the areas adjacent to the government in Moscow's Staraya Ploshchad today, just as it did yesterday, even though it is clear that the fate of Russians and their country depends to a great extent on the decisions made behind these walls.

The federal program for the social and economic development of the Kuril islands was examined at a sitting of the government's presidium today, as was a program under the general rubric of Technology of the Russian North.

Then, agreements were signed on a single monetary system and on the joint use of atomic power engineering, at the level of heads of the Governments of Russia and Kazakhstan and heads of national banks.

[Begin recording] [Kazakhstani Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko] Now, people are passing through freely, in both directions, without customs checks. A commission is at work to reduce the number of items subject to inspection and the issue of reducing or agreeing customs duties is being examined.

[Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin] What is being set up is something that is done throughout the whole world. People are uniting, uniting on normal terms. We are not about to command Kazakhstan and, likewise, I do not think that Kazakhstan wants to command us. We do not intend to dictate in the field of the economy, nor does Kazakhstan intend to dictate, nor does any other state. I expect a very great deal from tomorrow's sitting of the heads of governments and, in particular of course, from the heads of [CIS] states. The sitting of heads of states will take place in the Kremlin at 1300, and the main issue will be the setting up of an economic union. [end recording] [Video shows government building and meeting with Shakhray, Shokhin, Chubays, Shumeyko, Yerin, Gaydar present among others; Gerashchenko of Central Bank, Kazakhstani representative, Chernomyrdin, and Tereshchenko signing agreement]

Paper Views Changes in Ukrainian Nuclear Protocol

PM2309114593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "The Truth About Nuclear Weapons. Russia Denounced Protocol on the Withdrawal of All Nuclear Weapons From Ukraine"]

[Text] ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI today publishes three documents signed by the prime ministers of Russia and Ukraine during their summit meeting in Crimea 3 September. They are: the Agreement Between the Russian Federation Government and the Ukrainian Government on the Recycling of Nuclear Weapons, the Basic Principles for Recycling the Nuclear Weapons of the Strategic Nuclear Forces Stationed in Ukraine, and the Agreement Between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Procedure for Exercising Supervision Under Guarantees and Patents of the Operation of the Strategic Missile Complexes of the Strategic Forces Stationed on Their Territories.

But it appears that there was also a Protocol on the Withdrawal of All Nuclear Weapons of the Strategic Nuclear Forces Stationed in Ukraine to the Russian Federation. It was around this that a scandal erupted after a photocopy of it—featuring obvious crude emendations distorting the sense of the accords between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk—was carried in KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 9 September.

What was the gist of the actual summit agreements? In reply to this question the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that in the course of a meeting in Massandra 3 September between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents agreement was reached that all nuclear weapons of the Strategic Nuclear Forces stationed in Ukraine would be withdrawn to Russia not later than within 24 months of the date of Ukraine's ratification of the START I treaty. This, inter alia, is apparent from the

published photocopy of the protocol, the title of which features the word "all." The presidents decided that the document was of a confidential nature and would be signed by the heads of government, as indeed happened.

However, the Ukrainian president's adviser A.D. Buteyko, taking advantage of the fact that the documents were at his disposal after they were signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and Leonid Kuchma, made two handwritten emendations to the text, entirely changing the contents of the accord. In effect the documents came to mean that Ukraine—that is to say, in the given case, a certain part of the state apparatus—will seek, despite the obligations it has assumed, to keep some of its nuclear weapons.

Despite high-level protest from Russians, Ukraine's representatives refused to restore the original text. In connection with these actions of the Ukrainian side, which are, to put it mildly, unusual in diplomatic practice, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement runs, the Russian side officially annulled this protocol; Ukraine's representatives were immediately informed of this.

Thus the protocol on the withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from Ukraine does not exist as a document, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs states. However, this, of course, does not affect the gist of the accords reached between Russia and Ukraine at the level of heads of state and government.

An unseemly saga. Moreover, it happened at a time when Ukraine is resolving the question of confidence in the president and parliament and on the eve of the latest session of the Council of CIS Heads of State and Government, which is to examine the prospects for—or even to actually establish——an Economic Union, and at which an important step is to be made along the road of deepening the integration of our countries. The publication of falsified materials, the initiators of this action calculate, is bound to provoke in the population distrust of the actions of the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, and, consequently, undermine confidence in the rapprochement of our peoples.

Today readers can study the true texts of the other Crimean accords on nuclear weapons and strategic missile complexes. We hope that they will be able to discover the truth and thereby facilitate the strengthening of trust between Russia and Ukraine, and in the final analysis, between all countries of the Commonwealth.

Border Troop Chief Protests Incidents in Georgia

PM2409094193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Statement by Colonel General A. Nikolayev, commander of Russian Federation Border Troops]

[Text] On 21 September this year in Tbilisi armed groups carried out two unprovoked attacks on vehicles belonging to a directorate of the North Caucasus Border District. As a result of these acts of banditry, a compulsory service serviceman was killed, an officer and a private border serviceman were wounded, and two officers were kidnapped and taken hostage. The border troops' vehicle was hijacked and another vehicle was destroyed after being raked with automatic fire. At practically the same time, during hostilities in the city of Sukhumi, five Russian border troops received wounds of varying degrees of seriousness when unidentified formations fired on a compound occupied by a unit of Russian border troops.

Spokesmen for the Georgian leadership have frequently stated the need for units of Russian Federation Border Troops to be stationed on the republic's territory, providing assurances that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the safety of the servicemen and members of their families. Unfortunately, recent events indicate that the promises we were given are not being fulfilled.

The command of the Russian Federation Border Troops and the leadership of the North Caucasus Border District are doing everything they can to protect servicemen and members of their families on Georgian territory. Specifically, security has been beefed up at border troop installations and residential areas, and evacuation of border troops' children from schools has begun. At the same time all measures are being taken to free the officers who have been kidnapped; these measures are being carried out in conjunction with the Georgian law-enforcement organs.

As a result of this unprecedented bandit action, I am lodging a resolute protest and demanding that those responsible be immediately hunted down and severely punished. Appropriate statements have been submitted to the prime minister, defense minister, and ambassador of the Republic of Georgia in Moscow.

Russian Federation border troops in Georgia are continuing to guard the border sectors entrusted to them without interfering in the republic's internal affairs.

Japanese Foreign Minister To Meet Kozyrev

LD2309180593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Reports by diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Vosboinikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The date for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tokyo may be announced this weekend after the foreign ministers of Russia and Japan, Andrey Kozyrev and Tsutomu Hata, meet in New York, a senior official in the Russian Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX.

He said all dates for the Russian-Japanese summit given by the Japanese media had "leaked out" from Moscow sources close to the Russian government.

The official said Russia had its own suggestions for the optimum date for the meeting, but "they obviously need the approval of the Japanese side."

He did not exclude the possibility that Japan would take a temporizing stance because of Yeltsin's decree on gradual constitutional reform. "That's approximately what Moscow did when the government in Tokyo was replaced.

although that 'pause' didn't last for long. And the Japanese will most likely be quick enough to get their bearings under the new circumstances," the official said.

Hopes for Yeltsin Visit

LD2309191593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo September 23 TASS—Official Tokyo hopes that the proposed visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Japan, which was earlier scheduled for mid-October, will take place. However, Japanese leaders do not rule out that because of the current complicated internal situation in Russia, the visit may be postponed indefinitely, the newspaper "ASAHI" quoted Japan's Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as saying at a press conference on Wednesday [22 September]. The minister demonstrated for the first time a cautious approach towards this matter, giving to understand that taking into account the present situation in Russia, Tokyo will not insist that the Russian president stick to the schedule.

Mr. Hata said it is very important for the Russian and Japanese leaders to meet for talks if they want to build relations of mutual confidence. The minister stressed, however, that it is necessary to closely follow developments in Russia within the next few days, while at present it is rather dangerous to jump to hasty conclusions as regards Yeltsin's proposed visit to Japan.

Japanese leaders hope that the visit issue will be finally settled at the September 25 meeting between the Russian and Japanese foreign ministers during a session of the U.N. General Assembly. But they do not exclude a possibility that the current events in Russia will prevent Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev from attending the session in New York.

Japanese Military Experts Visit Moscow

PM2309125393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 3

[Viktor Kirillov report under "From Our Newsdesk" rubric: "Group of Japanese Military Experts Arrives in Moscow"]

[Text] For the first time a group of Japanese military experts has set off from Tokyo for Moscow, where bilateral consultations on defense questions open tomorrow. ITAR-TASS reports that the delegation includes Y. Hironaka, director of the Defense Agency's Defense Research Institute, two institute staffers, and military department specialists in the problem of defense policy.

It is expected that during the three-day consultations the Russian and Japanese experts will exchange views on their countries' military doctrines and will discuss problems of ensuring security in East Asia. Let me remind you that the first such consultations between representatives of the Russian and Japanese defense departments took place in Tokyo in February this year.

Foreign Ministry Personnel Changes Analyzed

PM2309132993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Sep 93 p 5

[Aleksandr Vasilyev report: "Cadres Reshuffled in Foreign Ministry Again"]

[Text] Observers spent the whole of yesterday looking for the political implication of the cadre changes in the Russian Foreign Ministry. The removal of Boris Pankin as Russian ambassador in London and Vladimir Lukin as ambassador in Washington fits neatly into the following scenario whereby on the eve of drastic changes in domestic policy (see, hear, and read yesterday's speech by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to the Supreme Soviet) Boris Yeltsin decided to clear out Russia's missions abroad to ensure that they inform the Russian president's foreign friends and allies about events in our country in the most appropriate way possible. Lukin does not inspire confidence, but his return to Moscow is not wanted either—he is too independent. Consequently, he could go to London, but in London you have Pankin. Therefore Pankin comes back to Moscow—to write books.

The relieving of Andrey Kolosovskiy and Grigoriy Berdennikov from their posts as deputy foreign ministers fits in very logically here. Berdennikov conducted the "statesmanlike" talks with the Americans on the future of the ill-fated Russian-Indian space project, while Kolosovskiy, as counsellor-envoy at the same time in Washington, could have fallen under the harmful influence of the artful Lukin.

We telephoned the president's office and ingenuously asked a well-informed individual whether we were right or not. The well-informed official replied that we were not. In a voice whose tone was more meaningful than the words, he said that there was no presidential edict regarding Lukin yet but that the ambassador to Washington might soon appear in Moscow. "Ambassadors sometimes come on vacation," he hinted. And as for Pankin, he really will be coming back for good.

Berdennikov is being sent to Geneva to look after the disarmament talks (is this necessary, are they still going on?) while Kolosovskiy, having had the deputy ministerial post removed, has been left to "counsel" in Washington. That's all. The president has no secrets from the people.

U.S. Senate Deducts Diplomats' Parking Fines From Aid

LD2309160093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington September 23 TASS—The U.S. Senate has ruled that the fines for wrong parking of Russian diplomats' cars in Washington will be deducted from the total sum of American aid to Russia to be approved by the American Congress.

The decision was proposed by Senator Jesse Helms (Rep.) and approved by the Senate without debate on Wednesday [22 September].

The amendment covers all countries whose diplomats fail to pay fines for undue parking but is spearheaded against Russia first of all, local sources said.

The sum of outstanding debts accumulated by Soviet and, later, Russian diplomats by local police totals as much as four million dollars, according to the American State Department data circulated here in July.

This money will be deducted until the American secretary of state says that "all the fines have been fully paid", according to the amendment.

Russian diplomats said they were not to blame because there is great shortage of parking space and numerous restrictions on parking in central Washington where the Soviet/Russian embassy is located. Even paid parking lots are at a premium.

Other embassies face the same problem, but they do not have as many cars as diplomats of the large Russian embassy.

Nevertheless, the city's authorities are implacable and have been "waging a war" on foreign diplomats for years demanding the payment of fines.

Nigeria ranks second after Russia in the amount owed - 150 thousand USD. Diplomats at the Egyptian embassy come third - the sum of their unpaid fines equals 80 thousand USD.

Agreement on Debt Consolidation Signed With Germany

LD2309194893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1930 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vyacheslav Kevorkov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn September 23 TASS—A Russo-German intergovernment agreement on the consolidation of the foreign debt of the Russian Federation and the former Soviet Union was signed in Bonn on Thursday [23 September].

The document was signed on behalf of the German Government—by Federal Finance Minister of Germany Theodor Waigel, and on behalf of the Russian Government—by Russian Ambassador to Germany Vladislav Terekhov.

"Thus, Germany which is a largest country-creditor for Russia, is making a considerable contribution in the settlement of the problem of payment of the foreign debt, in particular, of the former Soviet Union," Theodor Waigel said at a signing ceremony.

"The Federal Republic of Germany, the minister said, attaching extremely great importance to the agreement signed today, is interested in the continuation and successful completion of the process of democratic and economic reforms in Russia. At the same time, the constitutional crisis in this country has now reached such a stage that a threat to the continuation of this process has emerged. The attempt of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to resolve this crisis by holding early elections to russian Parliament deserves our full support. The German Government is sure that the resolute and progressive continuation of these reforms is the only way to the better future of the Russian peoples. Therefore Germany, together with other leading Western countries, from the very beginning has been giving broad support to the course of reforms in Russia. We understand that Russia is now badly needing a considerable postponement of payment of its foreign debt, specifically, which was left from the former Soviet Union. Despite the fact that Germany, as a largest creditor-country, to the greatest extent is affected by the non-payment of debts, this country was an initiator of the postponement. Therefore, in accordance with the agreement signed today, Germany stated its readiness to delay payment of the debt worth over 8 billion deutsche marks for up to ten years."

"The agreement signed today is an important document which I will take with me this Friday to Washington where a regular annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank will be held. Once there I will say to my colleagues: "Russia is keeping its word as to the payment of debts and the regulation of its relations with creditor-countries," the German minister pointed out.

Churkin Says Muslims Key to Resolving Bosnian Crisis

LD2309175793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By correspondent [illegible]triy Vosboinikov, Yegor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trube[illegible]nd others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] It is the Moslems who are today holding the key to the settlement of the Bosnian crisis, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president.

He told Interfax on Thursday [23 September] that all that had been achieved in the course of peace efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina would "fall apart" if the Moslems refused to sign final documents drafted with the assistance of international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg; although, Churkin said, the idea that they might not sign it was "more than hypothetical." "I think the Bosnian Moslems will ultimately make the right decision," he said.

"The solution of the Bosnian problem has never been so close at hand," said another senior Russian diplomat, who also believes the Moslems will sign the agreement. "The Moslems can hardly ignore the position of the United States and Turkey, which have in principle expressed their support for the agreement," he said.

As for the issues that remain, such as borders between Serbian, Moslem, and Croatian lands in Bosnia-Herzegovina, those can be solved as the agreements are carried out, the diplomat said. "It is for that purpose that a clause has been included in the documents under which an exchange of territory and resettlement of civilians who wish to move can be carried out within two years' time after the agreements are signed," he said.

Polish Response to Troop Withdrawal Viewed

PM2309105793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 93 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "So, Our Soldiers Have Left Poland"]

[Text] The symbolism-loving Poles saw only one link in the date of the final withdrawal of Russian troops—with the Red Army's arrival in Poland in 1939. This link, unfortunately, has been exaggerated in our own mass media. But that is not the whole story. The 49-year history of the Northern Group of Forces began with Poland's liberation from the fascist occupation.

Neither is there any mention of the fact that the Polish side has simply failed to keep its president's promise to take part in the provision of amenities for the troops being withdrawn. Nevertheless Russia found it in itself to withdraw its troops early. The Russian soldiers who carried out this order would have been entitled to expect a more cordial send-off—it is not they who are responsible for the political sins of over half a century ago.

IZVESTIYA Examines Polish Election Results

PM2309111793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Left Comes to Power"]

[Text] Warsaw—The victors in the Polish parliamentary elections which took place on Sunday [19 September] were the Democratic Left Alliance—a coalition of the Social Democracy of the Polish Republic (the so-called "post-Communists"), the National Trade Union Agreement, and several smaller groupings. They received the votes of 20.7 percent of those who took part in the ballot.

They were followed by the Polish Peasants' Party and the moderate liberal Democratic Union—the parties of V. Pawlak and T. Mazowiecki—with 15.3 and 10.6 percent respectively. Next come the Union of Labor, which was conceived in the bowels of "Solidarity," the "Confederation for an Independent Poland," and the president's Nonparty Bloc in Support of Reforms. "Solidarity" itself, the Liberal Democratic Congress, and Ojczyzna [Fatherland]—an association of Catholic parties—did not pass the necessary threshold.

The elections were attended by 51.5 percent of citizens having the right to vote. Activity was substantially lower at the previous elections in 1991: 43.1 percent.

The results of the elections have demonstrated significant differences in the political sympathies of Poles. Thus only 3 percent voted for the Polish Peasants' Party in the big cities, whereas 26 percent voted for them in the countryside. Almost one-third of voters with higher education expressed confidence in the democrats and liberals. There were noticeably fewer supporters of the left and more advocates of the liberals among young people, but, as we see, their opinion was not decisive.

Aleksander Kwasniewski, leader of the victorious Democratic Left Alliance, commented on his victory cooly. "This is a victory for democratic Poland," he said. "People voted for reforms. They were not elections for the sake of elections, by for the sake of deciding common Polish problems together."

The 39-year-old Aleksander Kwasniewski joined the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] at the age of 23 and worked in the party apparatus, edited SZLANDAR MLODYCH, then became minister for youth affairs. In 1990 after the self-disbandment of the PZPR he took charge of the Social Democratic Party. He has always advocated reforms, even "capitalism with a human face." He is considered a cynical and able politician. He has not only taken his party out of isolation but won at the polls.

"We are not communists," A. Kwasniewskiy stressed after the election results were made public. "The best coalition partner for us would be the Democratic Union, which has rich experience and good contacts with the West."

The elections have revealed the victors, but individually none of them has a decisive majority in the Sejm, in which there are only 460 seats. Whereas only yesterday it was thought unlikely that the three "left-wing victors" would unite into a coalition, today this is clearly becoming inevitable.

Be that as it may, we have a win for the left-wing forces and a defeat for the parties formed out of "Solidarity." Poles, tired of waiting for a better life, have transferred the blame for all their ills from the communists to the democratic opposition which had replaced them in power, and this changes the emphases in the political life of this country. The parties which have received the people's trust face a difficult examination.

Kozyrev, Diplomat Assess Middle East 'Breakthrough'

MK2409073993 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 56, 23 Sep 93 (signed to press 22 Sep) p 3

[Report on interview with Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Africa and the Middle East department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, incorporating remarks by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, by Vladimir Abarinov under the "First Hand Information" rubric: "Andrey Kozyrev Believes That the Middle East Is Lucky in a Certain Sense"]

[Text] Russia's role in the final phase of the Palestinian-Israeli talks (like the U.S. role) is not quite clear yet. We proposed in one of our recent commentaries that Moscow did know what was happening in Oslo anyway. Talking to your SEGODNYA correspondent, Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Africa and the Middle East department of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed that the Palestinian side kept Moscow posted in the early stage of the closed-door contacts between Israel and the PLO in Oslo. The information remained strictly confidential, available only to a very limited circle of persons. Three months ago, what Posuvalyuk calls a cardinally important meeting took place between Minister Kozyrev

and Arafat in Vienna, where he revealed the "Gaza-Jericho First" plan for the first time. While it was known about Israeli readiness to hand over Gaza, the fact that the discussion might turn to part of the West Bank territory proved, in the expression of Mr. Posuvalyuk, "a breakthrough, the dramatic element" in the entire settlement.

All that time, the Russian diplomat continued, we were being told that the PLO was losing its clout and that we were backing the wrong horse. However, it became apparent from what we heard that the Israeli leadership viewed the PLO as a real partner. Therefore we continued intensive contacts with the PLO, and this gamble, as we see, paid off.

The impression is—especially in light of the Norwegian story—that Washington was first and foremost a propaganda rostrum for all the participants. The talks there had in fact an open nature; now and again statements from the heads of delegations were heard—this is no way to go about serious politics.

Viktor Posuvalyuk's response to this was as follows. We realized that going beyond the framework of the Washington talks was possible. However, without Washington, talks in Oslo would not have been possible. Let us not forget that the Palestinian delegation in Washington acted on instructions from Tunis. Of course, transparency does not always benefit a cause, which is why, perhaps, the negotiating process shifted to Oslo.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement is already at this stage being compared to the fall of the Berlin Wall. What was it? A behind-the-scenes intrigue, plot, horse trading, arm twisting?

Andrey Kozyrev terms what happened as a political-psychological turn: Parties to the conflict realized that they could not necessarily maintain their positions through confrontation. "This dragged out the conflict," the minister says, "and long ago lost its military edge. The point was whether the forces active in it would be able to remain in business and not in a state of confrontation when they say "no" and thereby hold on, but by looking for a compromise—that is the crux of the denouement that was found." Secondly, in the minister's opinion, one can speak about the impact of the world situation. The Middle East was lucky in a sense, Kozyrev says. It remained in the focus of international attention right from the start. Two emergency General Assembly sessions took place in 1947; now there are volumes of resolutions. For many decades, the conflict was going on not so much on the battlefield as in diplomatic salons. A galaxy of politicians who think in terms of international law and are responsive to changes in the international climate developed over this period.

A Russian delegation led by Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, flew to Jordan, Syria, and Israel on Sunday [19 September]. Quite obviously, it faces the toughest job in Damascus. As Viktor Posuvalyuk said, the breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli sector and the rather substantial progress in the Jordanian sector should be backed by substantial progress on the Syrian-Israeli "track."

PRAVDA Interviews Sudanese Minister

PM2109135393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Sudanese Minister of Social Planning 'Ali 'Uthman Taha by Sergey Filatov under the "Our Interviews" rubric; place and date not given: "Sudan's Policies Unacceptable to United States"]

[Text] When not so long ago the United States stated that it had officially placed Sudan on its list of countries supporting international terrorism, interest in the conflict between the world's most powerful state and this, the largest African country in area but one which is economically weak, became the focus of general attention. Naturally, when we discovered that a prominent member of Sudan's political leadership, Minister of Social Planning Ali 'Uthman Taha, was in Moscow, we put some questions to him.

[Filatov] Today the United States is claiming that Sudan is involved in international terrorism. What comment would you make about these accusations? What are Sudan's foreign policy aims?

[Taha] The United States is playing a destructive role in the world and is attempting to establish a new world order and to make all countries and nations subordinate to it. After the war in the Persian Gulf, it worked urgently to defend its interests in this region properly. This is the key to understanding its attitude to Sudan.

Sudan won its independence 37 years ago but was drawn into a civil war whipped up by external forces. Only now that the Council for National Salvation is in power has the country become genuinely independent and reliant exclusively on its own forces. Sudan is achieving this by taking an independent line in foreign policy. During the war in the Gulf Sudan had a stance which differed from that of the United States and its allies. We considered that Iraq and Kuwait should resolve their own problems within the Arab world and the Arab League and that foreign powers should not interfere. Sudan considers that, as far as the conflict in Somalia is concerned, it should be settled at a regional level with the assistance of neighboring countries, which know the internal situation in Somalia very well and are attempting to make the warring factions more inclined to negotiate.

All this is unacceptable to the United States as it is not in its interests. Its recent accusations that we support international terrorism are absolutely false. The Sudanese Government has told the United States to present some evidence, but this has not been done. Washington says that Sudan opened its borders to foreign elements—particularly Palestinians—who are undergoing training here. But we stated that Sudan adheres to international law. Yes, we do indeed provide a haven for Palestinians and representatives of other countries, but we do this in accordance with international laws which forbid the use of these elements in activities against foreign states.

As for the decision to put Sudan on the list of countries supporting international terrorism, I can say this: We

believe that our clear position will lead people in the world to understand that these accusations are groundless. The United States does not have the right to pass sentence on any country in the world. But it is well known that Sudan has never been involved in terrorist actions against private individuals or specific countries. We strive to be good neighbors and to maintain good relations with everybody.

[Filatov] So there are no legal grounds to accuse Sudan of supporting terrorism? Then why is such a aggressive campaign to discredit Sudan taking shape in the international press?

[Taha] There are, of course, neither legal nor political reasons nor is there any proof to justify such a vicious attack on Sudan. But, you see, those in the U.S. Administration and lobbying groups who do not like Sudan's new policies, in particular Zionist circles and a number of elements in neighboring countries which do not accept the Islamic route of development, are coming together in this anti-Sudanese campaign and are stimulating it in the press.

[Filatov] Your country has lived for more than four years under the new regime—under the leadership of the Council for National Salvation. What is its internal policy? What ways does it see for resolving the many problems in your lives?

[Taha] Before the new regime came to power, Sudan lived through a very difficult period, suffering most of all from internal ethnic differences. This was reflected in all spheres of life. But these problems have now begun to be resolved. For example, the most important of them is the civil war in the south. We called for national dialogue in order to put an end to it, and we introduced a decentralized federal system in the country. Nine states were created with great powers and autonomy. An end was put to the practice whereby different groups of the population gained advantages and privileges. We attempted to defend and maintain national unity, and these efforts met with a certain degree of success. Both the Muslims and the Christians are satisfied with their positions. Both groups can freely hold their religious ceremonies. As a result, the economic development program has been carried out with greater ease. Exports are being encouraged and bilateral trade links are being established with many countries, including Russia. In a few weeks' time an exhibition of Russian goods is opening in Khartoum. According to information from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Sudan has attained the world's highest rate of development of 19 percent.

[Filatov] Is it true that you are receiving wide-ranging financial support from abroad?

[Taha] All our achievements are founded on the development of local resources. There are also foreign aid programs, although as the years pass by they are being cut. In the sphere of education we are overcoming illiteracy. All those who cannot read or write, can now go to elementary school. Eleven universities have sprung up here when there were only three.

The Council for National Salvation is paying a great deal of attention to improving living conditions for the population. The regime is proposing a political system in which the country's inhabitants participate in the resolution of its problems. This system is backed up by local committees elected in free democratic elections. They in turn have become part of a general system of power which will be headed by the National Congress at the federal level. It will begin to carry out all of the country's policies. But for the moment we have a temporary federal parliament, which after the national settlement will be replaced by an elected body.

[Filatov] You have touched on two very important topics. First, you said that the country is on the eve of elections to the federal parliament—the National Congress. At the same time you mentioned more than once that events in the south worry you very much. Is there a chance of settling the conflict in the south by peaceful means or will the leader of the rebels, John Garang, continue the struggle and will military means of resolving the conflict be necessary?

[Taha] We sincerely believe that a resolution of this conflict should be based on dialogue. To this end, the government has begun the long process of negotiations and contacts with various groups and movements of the rebel factions. We are all Sudanese, and if we are left in peace, we will resolve our problems and disputes on our own. We really hope that there will be peace in Sudan as early as in the next few months.

[Filatov] We know that after the war in the Persian Gulf you upset your relations with your Arab friends due to your position. Has the situation changed now?

[Taha] The war in the Gulf had a very serious effect on Sudan's relations with the Arabs. But in time, in the course of subsequent events, our position has become more understandable to many and we have restored normal relations with the majority of these countries. We are talking here about good relations with Libya, Oman, Yemen, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. In general our relations with Cairo are now improving in many spheres. There is also an improvement of our relations with Saudi Arabia, although this is happening slowly.

[Filatov] How would you assess Russian-Sudanese relations? What stage have they reached?

[Taha] Our relations with Russia have a long history. From the day the Council for National Salvation came to power, the government had a strong urge to develop our relations and to use all means at their disposal for this. My present visit to Moscow is a mission sponsored directly by the head of state. We are searching for better mutual understanding and better relations with Russia and greater cooperation in all spheres. We consider that, having begun such a wide development program, Sudan requires technology and equipment, and in this respect we may make use of our ties with Russia. At the moment an intergovernmental agreement is being produced.

We are following the events in your country and note that, just as in Sudan, there are forces active in Russia which desire to split the country apart. Therefore we wish to see a united strong Russia, just as we wish to see a united strong Sudan.

We value the support of the Russian Government for our efforts to preserve Sudan's unity in the face of those people who are calling for the country to be split, as well as the support shown us in the IMF when attempts were made there to strip us of our rights.

Brazil Army Minister Denies Arms Purchase Plans

PM2309090593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Article by Aleksey Bausin: "Will Washington Allow Moscow to Sell Weapons to Brazil?"]

[Text] Brazilian Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena, who visited Moscow recently, was full of smiles at a meeting with journalists and was at pains to avoid giving a direct reply to questions like "So are you going to buy weapons from us or not?" The minister stressed several times that he was there not as a buyer, but had come to Moscow for the sole purpose of arranging cooperation between the military departments.

The minister's visit was given added spice by items in a number of Brazilian papers claiming that the military had devised a plan, whereby Brazil would supply food stored at the Agriculture Ministry depot in exchange for Russian tactical missiles, tanks, and protective masks.

Whether the plan actually existed or not, the minister talked about possible purchases of Russian technology as a very remote prospect. But he noted that he had no doubt that Russia has military technology of interest to Brazil.

The Brazilian army minister's visit to Moscow is not the first event of its kind. The Argentine defense minister was here last fall, and in the spring there was a visit by members of the Chilean armed forces, who were at pains to avoid contacts with journalists. So one can say that there is a steady interest on the part of the Latin American military in a country that they formerly regarded as a potential enemy.

This interest is pragmatic in nature—Russia can offer them comparatively cheap weapons that are as good as and often better than Western models in terms of their capabilities.

But those who think that in the very near future Russia will be inundating the distant Latin American continent with the products of its military-industrial complex are somewhat mistaken. Many governments in Latin America are currently cutting spending on military needs, so one should not be imagining any major deals. Moreover, we must not forget about our American friends, who are not very impressed by this cooperation. Russia has had occasion to see how they react in such cases from the example of the Russian-Indian contract for the supply of cryogenic engines.

Prospects for Grachev Tour Previewed

PM2409112593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 7

[Sergey Zavorotnyy report: "Taking His Missiles to Another Continent"]

[Text] Buenos Aires—There are some not entirely glad tidings in store for Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev when he visits Latin America at the beginning of October, unless that trip is postponed.

To begin with, after long deliberation the Chilean authorities have decided not to anger the bear—the Americans—and have decided not to buy the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile complex, a deal which Chilean President Aylwin discussed during his visit to Moscow in the summer. Santiago was helped to reach this conclusion, according to local political circles, by pressure from Washington. It is not just that the Americans do not really like Russia's attempts to break into the Latin American arms market. The White House is afraid of something else too: If the Latin American military acquire temptingly cheap and highly efficient Russian military hardware the Pentagon's plans to reorganize the cumbersome armies here into small but effective rapid reaction forces—both to maintain order at home and to take part in international missions within UN peace-making forces—could be under threat. The Pentagon believes that the Latin American armies have quite enough armaments for that already.

Nor is Buenos Aires looking forward to the Russian defense minister's visit with any great pleasure. During lunch with foreign journalists last Monday [20 September] Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella expressed serious doubt that Grachev's visit will be crowned with any success. The head of the foreign policy department advised our minister not to try to enter the local market with Russian arms because nothing would come of this venture. The minister justified his pessimistic assessment by saying that the processes of disarmament and the conversion of military sectors is gathering momentum in the world and that Argentina is no exception in this respect.

What should our defense minister do then? I would advise Pavel Grachev not to despair but to pack another suitcase—with samples of Russian equipment and weapons for the equipment of, say, the rapid reaction forces. Trade in everything you have got, not just the S-300. Do not fret that they are predicting that the visit will fail. After all, politicians come and go but soldiers stay.

Foreign Ministry Official on Ties With Angola

MK2209100693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 4

[Interview with Leonid Safonov, director of the Foreign Ministry's Africa Department, by Aleksandr Zditovetskiy in Lisbon under "Diplomacy" rubric: "Russia Does Not Intend To Leave Africa and Resumes Arms Deliveries to Luanda"; date not given]

[Text] [Zditovetskiy] What are Russia's political and economic interests in Angola?

[Safonov] Long-standing cooperation links us to Angola. I mean not only deliveries in the military sphere, which are important by themselves and have constituted a substantial proportion of the cooperation between our countries, but also the implementation of a number of serious economic projects. Work has continued even after the resumption of the fratricidal war. A good example of such cooperation is the construction of a hydroelectric station in the area of Kapunda. This is a very capital-intensive Russian- Brazilian-Angolan venture, and Russia has rendered substantial assistance in implementing this project.

Of course, the entire potential for cooperation has not yet been tapped to the full. Military actions in the country have impeded this. Nonetheless, we hope that after their cessation, our cooperation will move to a new basis. Those elements that we are now putting first in Russia's relations with African countries—mutual advantages and the ensurance of Russia's political and economic interests—will be given full prominence.

[Zditovetskiy] Does this mean that Russia does not intend to "leave Africa"?

[Safonov] No, Russia is not going to withdraw from Africa. Moreover, the shift of our cooperation with Africa to new principles helps Russia consolidate its positions here and place them on a foundation which responds primarily to Russian interests. We are abandoning the principle of "losses" in our relations. What might at first glance appear as a certain reduction in the volume of cooperation will not mean that Russia's interests are being infringed since in the previous period these volumes grew at our expense.

[Zditovetskiy] There is one delicate aspect to relations between Russia and Angola. According to Western expert estimates, Angola's debts to the USSR constituted $5-6 billion. Nonetheless, some Angolan leaders have stated that "Luanda is not interested in repaying its debts to Russia." Thus, an Angolan leader visiting Lisbon last year said in this regard that "the Soviet Union as a country does not exist any longer, while different republics which have now become independent states have made deliveries to Angola." What would you say about such statements?

[Safonov] Angola's foreign debt for special deliveries, like that of other countries, is, of course, a highly delicate question and calls for a balanced and serious approach—naturally, on the part of Russia as well as the debtor countries. To be sure, we are ready to resolve it comprehensively, taking into account the interests and possibilities of a particular country that is in debt to us.

Angola, like many other African countries, is now going through far from the best time in its history. We realize that its economy may not be able to withstand Russia's demand for early debt repayment. Yet there are many ways of settling this question: debt rescheduling; an agreement that part of it should be covered by export goods; reinvestment in the local currency into a debtor country's economy, and so forth.

Not only Angolans have made such statements. Representatives of other countries have expressed doubts about the legitimacy of Russia's assumption of the former USSR debts. On this count we have accords with the former republics of the Soviet Union which confirm Russia's claims to the foreign debts. We present relevant documents which, as our experience with other countries shows, satisfy them completely.

[Zditovetskiy] Recently a Lisbon weekly reported that Russia has resumed arms supplies to Luanda.

[Safonov] We are making no secret of the fact that the situation in Angola has changed drastically. UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] was the first to break the Lisbon accords. That has created a basically new situation. In this context the Angolan Government announced that it no longer considers itself bound by these accords.

We, as well as the entire world community, share this point of view. It is impossible to demand complete and scrupulous observance of all points of an agreement from one side while the other side fulfills none.

We made a decision to resume supplies to the Angolan Government, in response to its request, but we are pursuing this line very cautiously. What is involved here is limited deliveries of defensive arms. There have been no large-scale arms supplies yet, and if the situation in Angola normalizes, this probably will not happen. Our intention is to provide to the Angolan Government an opportunity to repulse internal aggression, i.e., to a certain extent restore its military potential and a military balance in the country.

[Zditovetskiy] After an exchange of information and opinions with our colleagues in the "threesome" observing the process in Angola—Portugal and the United States—how do you assess the prospect for a peace settlement in Angola in the next few months?

[Safonov] It is difficult to speak in terms of the next few months. Instead, one should talk about a more lengthy period.

As for our assessments, they generally coincide. Russia, Portugal, and the United States have stated unequivocally that responsibility for the breakdown of the peace process in Angola lies completely with UNITA. It is precisely the opposition movement that is damaging the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the conflict by making an attempt to seize power by force. In this respect we have no disagreements with our partners in the group of three—just as, incidentally, on other questions.

We believe that only coordinated pressure on those responsible for thwarting the peace process, i.e., UNITA, can bring this organization to reason.

Our statement circulated at the end of the Lisbon meeting intended to show UNITA that aside from negotiations, there is no other way and the world community will actively support the Angolan Government, which has openly and honestly spoken out in favor of a peaceful solution to the armed conflict.

Political Issues

Commentary Views Presidential Council Sitting

PM2309101593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition pp1-2

[Aleksandr Linkov commentary under the "Weekly Overview" rubric: "The President's Team 'Flunks'"]

[Text] It is possible that the Presidential Council, which convened last week after the summer recess, is "not long for this world." That is the gloomiest prognosis. A more optimistic one is that the next sitting will not be for some time, the fall/winter recess will arrive. For what Boris Yeltsin heard from his aides can hardly have pleased him—indeed, he probably did not expect to hear such things from them.

Having addressed the council in what has become his traditional vein of late, saying that fall will see the activation of the political struggle, and having proposed afresh the idea of early parliamentary elections, of setting up a Federation Council, and of adopting a new Constitution, it was not support and sworn assurances of the originality of the proposals forwarded that the president heard in response. On the contrary, it was suggested, for instance, that it was better to put off the fall elections until next spring. It is simply technically impossible to organize them now. Opinion on elections for the head of state was equally unequivocal, and remarks about how things are not so simple as regards adopting a new Constitution was like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky. This matter is painfully laborious, and there is absolutely no place here for revolutionary leaps, but by far the most serious attack on the president proved to be the unflattering comments aimed at Boris Yeltsin's team. Its members have clearly gone too far in their struggle for personal influence over their leader.

Criticism from the lips of aides selected at one time from among the president's most ardent supporters probably had the effect of a cold shower on Boris Yeltsin. According to many observers' evaluations, he was clearly not prepared for it. The proposals and observations expounded were received with confusion and ill-concealed disgruntlement.

Of course, being head of state Boris Nikolayevich should have been above personal grudges over criticism, but the holy of holies—his team—had been hurt. If, say, the president himself had been criticized, then the people from his entourage in charge of the hidden but actual levers of power and influence would probably try to do everything possible so that the Council should not convene for as long as possible.

However, what happened at the sitting warrants thorough analysis. The political leaders composing the council had evaluated the existing situation realistically. To support the president and to insist on fall parliamentary elections would be to organize their own political suicide. The economy is breathing its last, it is uncertain what kind of a winter lies ahead, and trade unions are threatening to incite people to strike. The idea of taking power (and many aides already see themselves as parliamentarians) is something you would recommend only to your worst enemy. The grave is already prepared. But having waited a few months, built up forces, and regrouped, it will be far safer come spring to launch a political offensive.

Fresh elections for Russian president loomed ever more realistically on the horizon, despite Boris Yeltsin's earlier repeated assertions that he wants to work for his full term. Last Saturday however, he altered his plans after agreeing to go to the people sooner, somewhere around spring 1995, but he is unlikely to be allowed to hold his ground pending this date.

If next spring's elections for a new parliament take place, and if the radical democrats should receive a majority even, then the first thing the legislators will undertake is the president's removal. Everything will be attributed to him—how he failed to exploit the results of the April referendum, his indecisiveness, his inconsistency. In short, everything imaginable will blamed on their former leader. The parliamentary opposition will also be quite different: It will prove far more solid, far tougher.

The argument for presidential elections as soon as possible is bolstered further by the fact that many political leaders, including some of Boris Yeltsin's supporters, are now neatly distancing themselves from his positions, the policy he is conducting, and they have already started to measure themselves up for a Kremlin seat. The appropriate pre-election work—trips to the regions, speeches, statements—is under way.

As for President Boris Yeltsin, a situation which is unlikely for him but which is probably the only means of salvation is taking shape right now. A chance to survive politically and again to assert himself somehow as leader of the state is being provided by none other than the present Supreme Soviet and Congress of People's Deputies. It is ironic, but the realities are such that these power organs, having at one time done much to restore Yeltsin at the top of the political Olympus, have prevented him from sinking into oblivion on several occasions already. There is just one chance left now. It may be the last.

Should the president respond to the deputies' proposals to take up his seat in parliament which has been empty for over a year, should he deal with them directly, and should he cast aside dogmatic views on conservatism and much more, resolving joint issues in the name of state interests and not to the advantage of individual political groups then Boris Yeltsin would thus gain a great deal. Above all, the trump card will be knocked out of the hands of those who are interested in supporting permanent confrontation between the federal powers. Yes, the differences of opinion with the parliament will remain. There are very few places where such differences are avoided. They can be ironed out through joint, painstaking work, and not through loud statements like those made by his own press secretary, which make you feel ashamed. Not for the press secretary, but for the president, whose authority is being battered by his own aide.

Parliament will need to tone down its own mannerisms, particularly its political ways. Compromise is always possible. It will provide the chance to deal in earnest with constitutional, economic, judicial, and other Russian reforms, including the creation of a legislative base for holding new elections both for parliament and for the head of state, but life itself will judge whether or not they should be early.

By taking up his seat in parliament and starting to work with it, the president obtains the chance to remain as political leader for the future. A paradox? Yes, but all life now consists of paradoxes, and the situation in which he finds himself is of the president's own making.

Government Decree Will Boost Militias' Numbers

PM2309170593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Sergey Taranov report: "As Well as the Militia, Order on the Streets Will Be Safeguarded by People's Militias and Internal Troops"]

[Text] On 22 September Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a decree which should cardinally strengthen the battle with street crime.

The question whether you are frightened to go out on the streets at night or not has already become rhetorical. In some industrial centers workers fear to go on night shift alone. Thus they assemble in groups; they are also demanding special militia escorts. It is obvious that the latter does not have the forces to deter street crime.

The gist of the new government decree consists precisely in the fact that it creates more guardians of law and order.

First, the number of professional militia officers in Russia is to increase by 45,000 men.

Second, internal troops units—34,000 basic service soldiers—are being sent along to assist the "street" militia. Moreover, there should be no difficulties with drafting new recruits, since the quota of draftees directed into the Russian Army is being reduced by 34,000.

Third, the government recommends that local authorities should be more active in setting up—following Moscow's example—their own municipal militias. They will be maintained from regional and city budgets. The experience of the Russian capital shows that the municipal militia is often superior to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] forces—the pay there is 1.5-two times higher, every detail patrols by car, and the selection of cadres is stricter.

Fourth, the much-ridiculed Volunteer People's Militias are being revived. Curiously, the present Russian Government recognized as the juridical basis for this the ancient RSFSR Council of Ministers decree of... 19 June 1974. In future it is planned to adopt a special law on the participation of the public in safeguarding law and order.

True, the safeguarding of law and order in the Volunteer People's Militias will now really be voluntary. The authors of the decree hope that the old socially active women with red armbands will be replaced by intelligent, robust guys who are not adverse to doing a little crime-fighting on the side, since the volunteer militiamen will be paid not by the enterprises where they work, but directly from the coffers of militia departments. It is well known that there are plenty of citizens wishing to instill order in their own rayon or city.

New tasks are to be added to the traditional tasks of this sizeable contingent (the militia, internal troops, volunteer people's militia, and the municipal militia)—in particular, alongside the tax police and "other interested organizations," operational groups are being set up to monitor the markets, flea markets, and so forth. As their number one task, the decree says, operational groups are obliged to "halt instances of the concealment of profits from taxation and the artificial maintenance of inflated prices on the output of local industry and agriculture" (as we see, the duty of monitoring imported goods is not imposed).

Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed the Ministry of Finances to find the money to pay the wages of 40,000 new militia officers and for the purchase of special equipment, arms, and so forth.

Yeltsin Edict 'To Strengthen Law and Order'

PM2309103993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 5

[Edict No. 1390 of the Russian Federation President "On Extra Measures to Strengthen Law and Order in the Russian Federation," dated 18 September 1993, the Kremlin, Moscow, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to step up the fight against very dangerous crimes and against the invasion of the economic sphere by criminal elements, recognizing that criminals are more heavily armed and act brutally and cynically and taking into account the many calls from citizens for the protection of their lives, health, and property, I rule that:

1. The Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Security Ministry, and the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, with the participation of other interested ministries and departments:

should carry out in regions with serious crime problems coordinated operations specifically intended to halt the activities of bandit formations and organized criminal associations engaged in smuggling and illegal arms and drug trafficking and in committing other serious crimes and terrorizing the populace. Active use must be made to this end of special motorized troop units and also operational formations and troop units of the internal forces;

effective measures must be adopted to stop the smuggling of weapons, ammunition, explosives, armored equipment, and drugs across the Russian Federation state border and also out of armed conflict zones;

regulations at enterprises manufacturing weapons and ammunition must be tightened up.

2. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Russian Federation Security Ministry must take an inventory of all places where armaments are stored, regardless of what department they are under.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Security Ministry, and the Russian Federation Justice Ministry, with the participation of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's office, the Russian Federation Supreme Court, and other interested organizations have two months to submit in the proper manner:

draft laws on making amendments and additions to the RSFSR Criminal Code and RSFSR Criminal Procedure Code on stiffer penalties for crimes against citizens' lives, health, and property and on introducing criminal liability for organized criminal activity, bogus business activity, false bankruptcy, illegal use of credits, failure to transfer hard currency from abroad promptly and in full, deliberate violation of accounting procedures, and illegal arms and drug trafficking, and also on changing the custody, charging, and examination procedures and time limits, on introducing alternative investigatory procedures for certain categories of criminal cases and expanding the list of types of crime to which the simplified investigation and legal procedure apply;

proposals on the development and production of special modern equipment for law-enforcement bodies using the facilities of defense industry sector enterprises and on the establishment of tax concessions for such enterprises.

4. The Russian Federation State Customs Committee, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Russian Federation Security Ministry, in conjunction with other interested ministries and departments, are to arrange strict monitoring of the observance of existing legislation on exports of raw materials and products and the handling of hard currency.

5. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry is to complete the work connected with the Russian Federation's joining the European Convention on Extradition (1957), the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance (1959), the Convention on the Laundering, Identification, Seizure, and Confiscation of Income from Criminal Activities (1990), and the Protocol on Amendments to the Single Convention on Narcotics (1961).

6. Organs of executive authority in the Russian Federation republics, krays, oblasts, autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are to:

take urgent steps to make work on preventing, stopping, and detecting crime more productive, paying special attention to stepping up the fight against criminal activity that jeopardizes citizen's lives, health, and property;

ensure that technical and investigation operational components and organized crime components of Russian Federation internal affairs organs are provided with the official and ancillary premises, vehicles, communications and other items they need to be able to function normally;

institute the posts of assistant administration chiefs for the fight against crime and corruption, to be drawn from the staff of the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry Main Administration for Organized Crime and the Fight Against Corruption. Appointments to this post and dismissals will be coordinated with the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry.

7. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government is to:

ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of measures envisaged by this edict;

form a departmental commission to counter drug abuse and illegal drug trafficking under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government;

secret [sekretno].

8. This edict comes into effect the moment it is signed.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 18 September 1993

Chernomyrdin Signs Fedorov Resignation Directive

PM2309125193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "At the Center of Attention"]

[Text] Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a government directive on the resignation, at his own request, of Boris Fedorov, vice premier of the Russian Federation government and minister of finances, from the position of executive director for the Russian Federation in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Multilateral Agency for Guarantees and Investments (MAGI). Fedorov tendered his resignation two months ago. This decision was caused by the fact that, despite the existing edict of the Russian Federation president permitting Boris Fedorov to combine two posts, too many rumors were circulating that Fedorov was receiving several wage packets, although he never received money in the IBRD or MAGI. Boris Fedorov will be replaced in his post by A. Burgov.

Democratic Russia Tables No-Confidence Vote in Filatov

PM2309123993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Viktor Petrovskiy report under the "Hearing" rubric: "The Special Case of Sergey Filatov"]

[Text] As reported on the "Ekho Moskvy" radio station Thursday, a question of no-confidence in Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, was put to the vote at a sitting of the "Democratic Russia" movement's coordinating council.

What harm has he done the ardent social-radicals? It seems that the reason for his special treatment was the chief administrator's insufficiently Bolshevist hard-line stance on the question of starting the work of the Constitutional

Conference, along with another question, probably extremely important in implementing the strategy outlined by the social-radicals—that of adopting an interim constitutional law. Does this mean that the constitutional law, or as it is still called in presidential circles the "lesser Constitution," has already been prepared?

Sergey Filatov's personnel policy also caused displeasure. In particular, he was blamed for the decision to dismiss Gennadiy Veretennikov, who was responsible in the administration for communications with the territories.

As a result of the ballot, seven members of the Coordinating Council returned a vote of no-confidence in Sergey Filatov, while 10 voted in his favor.

Meanwhile, citing, as in the first instance, reliable sources of information, "Ekho Moskvy" also reported that Sergey Filatov called in at the General Prosecutor's Office that very same day and had a talk with an investigator there.

Main State Guard Administration Status Questioned

PM2309133593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by lawyer Viktor Suslov under the "Expert Opinion" rubric: "This Gulliver Is All-Powerful. And Completely Unlawful"]

[Text] When in January 1992 the Russian democratic public concertedly protested the presidential edict which announced the merging of the ministries of security and internal affairs into a single structure, scarcely anyone suspected that this edict was just a smoke-screen for another equally dangerous presidential decision. This was the formation of a certain state committee bearing the name of Russian Federation Main State Guard Administration. And whereas the first guard supermonster was eliminated by a decision of the Constitutional Court, the fact of the creation of the second one was not honored with the public's attention at all.

The Main State Guard Administration only attracted stares of perplexity following the scandals over the sealing up of the office of Vice President A. Rutskoy and the prevention of Constitutional Court Chairman V. Zorkin from entering his residence. Although of course some minor scandals had occurred even before this, such as... the collection of dollars for video films of the president.

It is expected that in the near future, the Constitutional Court will examine the petition from a group of Russian Federation people's deputies to verify the constitutionality of the creation and activity of the Main State Guard Administration, but even today, proceeding on the basis of separate cases published in the press, you can draw the conclusion that it will not be easy for the presidential lawyers to prove the legitimacy of the existence of the Main State Guard Administration.

First and foremost the status of this department within the structure of the executive is unclear. It has been placed on the same footing as a state committee, but there is no such "power" structure either in the Law on the Government nor in the Law on the President. The Main State Guard Administration is subordinate only to the president, its status is ratified only by the president (without coordination with the parliament) and it is not controlled by anyone else.

But it is not only the position of the Main State Guard Administration within the executive power system that generates questions. Judging by the fact that this Gulliver decides whom to deprive of their dacha, automobile, or special communications, and whom it can allow to earn currency from federal property and from the sale of video pictures of the president, and spend uncontrollably, then the competence of this state committee is truly boundless. Having received the right to create economic and nonbudget structures and participate in the work of associations [obyedineniy i assotsiatsiy], the Main State Guard Administration is evidently accumulating enormous sums in currency and rubles, and it is intolerable that this should be spent outside the state budget and outside the control of the parliament.

While the public was keeping an eye on the "purity of morals" in the Russian Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the presidential secret guard committee gained force and acquired additional powers. Now it has under its control the Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information, as well as the training center of the Ministry of Security (apart from the "Alpha" and "Kremlin Regiment" special units). In a word, tens of thousands of servicemen who in theory are protecting and maintaining three dozen presidential residences day and night. But in practice?!

It cannot be ruled out that the Constitutional Court will find a lot of questions to ask about the Main State Guard Administration as soon as the hearings on this case start.

Executive Branch Activites Detailed

PM2309140193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpt] **Meetings, Conferences, Sessions**

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, as always on Tuesdays, had a meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. An exchange of opinions on a wide range of issues took place.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray took part in the work of the Russian Union of Local Self-Government Congress, which is taking place in the city of Dzerzhinskiy in Moscow Oblast.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays held a conference with the deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property.

In the afternoon Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha flew to Altay Kray.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov chaired a session of the Russian Ministry of Finances Collegium.

Regions

Sverdlovsk Oblast is not going back on its demands for equal rights with the republics, Eduard Rossel, head of the oblast administration, stated yesterday. Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, Rossel said, is ready "to support unequivocally a Ural Republic, if it is created within the framework of a Ural economic region."

Contacts

The first session of the joint Russian-Netherlands Commission for Economic Cooperation opened in the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. Participants in the forum will discuss the problems of extending cooperation between the two countries and the provision of technical assistance for Russia from the Netherlands side, and various aspects of trade relations. The question of Russia's debt to Dutch firms, which stands at 350 million guilders, will be examined separately. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin's August Performance Rating Declines

MK2309121993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Kinsburskiy report under "NG—VP Poll" rubric: "Yeltsin's Main Success Stories and Failures in the Past Month. Public Opinion Leaders Assess the President's Performance in August"]

[Text] The poll, commissioned by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, was carried out by the Vox Populi service (directed by B. A. Grushin), based on a telephone interview of public opinion leaders. The latter included eight main groups: people's deputies—members of the Russian Supreme Soviet; heads of ministries and other federal executive power bodies; leaders of political parties; managers of state run enterprises; leaders of non-state businesses—private and share holding enterprises, joint ventures, and commercial banks; representatives of the top military command; leaders of mass media organizations; and people prominent in the sphere of culture and science. The poll was conducted in the period 1-8 September 1993. The overall sample is 400 people.

The main conclusions that should be made from comparing the results of the September poll with data obtained in previous surveys is that first, a further drop has occurred in the assessment of the Russian president's performance over the past month on the part of representatives of the Russian elite; and second, this assessment in September has proven to be the lowest this year—2.76 points, which is 0.31 points below the previous one in July and 0.5 points below that in May. The fluctuations of the average aggregate appraisal—in all the opinion leader groups—made by the respondents in the period from January to September 1993 with a two month interval is shown below.

In September Boris Yeltsin's performance as president was rated the lowest by leaders of various political parties (2.24 overall)—significantly, not only communist (2.04) but also other orientations (2.44). The highest ratings of his performance over the past month have been provided by people prominent in the sphere of science and culture (2.97), military leaders (1.96), and press leaders (2.92). As can be observed, the disparity of appraisals as a whole is not too great: from two to three.

What, then, accounts for the September assessments of the president's activity? Which of his moves in the past month have appeared most successful and which the most unsuccessful to the public opinion leaders?

In contrast to the July poll results, when the majority of respondents cited the work of the constitutional conference as Yeltsin's main success story (each time a corresponding question is asked in an open form, i.e., withoutready formulas given), in September the Russian president's activity was appraised, naturally, with many other actions on his part taken into account.

Perhaps for the first time since the beginning of the current year, Boris Yeltsin's foreign policy moves (above all, his talks in Crimea with Ukraine's President Kravchuk on the Black Sea Fleet and the signing of an agreement in Sochi on ceasing hostilities in Abkhazia) have been mentioned in the respondents' answers often, most of the time with a plus mark. They were positively assessed the most often by top military leaders (44 percent) and state enterprise managers (40 percent). The respondents also mentioned on the success side his steps toward the creation of the Federation Council, notably the meeting by the head of state with representatives of Russian regions in Petrozavodsk and the accord reached there. People from the sphere of science and culture have proven the most active supporters of the Federation Council being formed as an advisory body under the Russian president (28 percent).

Characteristically, none of the respondents has mentioned actions in the sphere of social policy either on the positive or the negative side.

Representatives of the Russian elite have generally regarded as the most unsuccessful move by Boris Yeltsin in the past month the start of an anti-corruption campaign in the upper echelons of power—the temporary suspension from office of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko. A negative attitude to the president's corresponding edict and his subsequent directives has been expressed by 44 percent of military leaders and 38 percent of political party leaders, especially those of a noncommunist orientation (44 percent). As a rule, the president's confrontational statements and actions with respect to his political opponents (primarily his statement about the start of "artillery preparations" before a decisive "offensive" against his opponents in the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of Russian People's Deputies) have been deemed to be failures. Leaders of communist oriented parties (28 per cent) assessed these the most critically.

Thus, the balance of success stories and failures on the part of Boris Yeltsin in August, from the point of view of representatives of the Russian establishment, has generally turned out rather negative, which has apparently led to a further decline in the average rating of his performance in the past month.

[Article is accompanied by two boxed diagrams]

Average ratings of the Russian Federation president's performance (on a five-point scale) [in percentages]

January—2.86
March—2.86
May—3.26
July—3.07
September—2.76

Yeltsin's main success stories and failures in August (in percentages to the overall number of respondents, n = 400 people)

Line of activity	(1) success	(2) failure	(1)-(2)
Foreign policy actions	27	2	+25
Creation of the Federation Council	10	1	+9
Implementation of social programs	0	0	0
Financial regulation	1	5	-4
Trend toward confrontation with political opponents	1	12	-11
Struggle against corruption	9	25	-16

Government Approves Federal Program for Kurils

LD2309165093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The draft federal program for the social and economic development of the Kurile Islands in the 1993-1995 period, and in the period up to the year 2000 thereafter, was given an outline approval at a Russian Council of Ministers Presidium session today.

It is planned to protect the unique natural environment of the Kuriles and to set up a fisheries complex set to be one of Russia's leading enterprises of this type. It is also planned to develop biopharmaceutical production and raise the standard of life of the population of the islands.

It is planned to spend in excess of 227 billion rubles to have this program implemented. Yegor Gaydar participated in the discussion.

1991 Coup Plotters Seek Proceedings Postponement

LD2309200193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko]

[Text] Moscow September 23 TASS—The participants in the trial over the August 1991 coup plotters discussed a petition to postpone the proceedings at a hearing on Thursday [23 September].

The petition was issued by Gennadiy Yanayev's advocate Abdulla Khamzayev, who cited the fact that a group of people's deputies had already applied to the Russian Constitutional Court, questioning constitutionality of President Yeltsin's decrees, in which legal evaluation of the defendants' actions was given.

Having considered Khamzayev's petition, the judges declined to satisfy it.

Vladimir Hofstein, Anatoliy Lukyanov's advocate, presented a written petition to the court, asking to return the case to the Procurator's Office to finalize the investigation.

In his turn, Hofstein alluded to the fact that both Yevgeniy Lisov, who signed the indictment, and Procurator-General Valentin Stepankov, who approved it, were personally interested in the outcome of the proceedings.

Defendant Valentin Pavlov claimed that the case should be returned to the Procurator's Office to finalize the investigation because of numerous violations of criminal-procedural code.

State Prosecutor Arkadiy Danilov admitted that certain violations of the law did take place during the investigation. In his opinion, however, the investigation gaps could be filled out at the legal proceedings.

Economic & Media Issues

Chernomyrdin Confirms Government Economic Course

PM2309120593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 93 Second Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Prime Minister Confirms Government's Loyalty to Course Aimed at Achieving Financial Stabilization"]

[Text] Almost three weeks after persistent rumors began spreading about the possibility of a sharp change in the government's course a clear explanation has finally emerged—a first-hand explanation, so to speak. It came during a meeting on 16 September between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and a group of people's deputies.

In his address the prime minister rebutted quite cogently the well-known statements about an inevitable and rapid collapse of the Russian economy and demonstrated that despite all the acute problems that exist not only is the country's economy not in a state of total collapse but there have even been signs, as the premier put it, that it is beginning to "gather potential for future growth."

As for the question of how the economy is going to develop in future, the prime minister expressed sharp criticism of the suggestions of an increase in credit issue to support industry, the reciprocal settlement of debts, and the indexation of just about everything.

The premier did not mention names in his speech but it is quite obvious that the main thrust of his criticism was directed at Vice Premier O. Lobov, who, incidentally, took part in the meeting along with A. Chubays, S. Shakhray, B.

Fedorov, A. Shokhin, and V. Gerashchenko. V. Chernomyrdin expressed the conviction that the government should show determination and that if it manages to hold to a rigid financial policy, especially in September and October, the first results of financial stabilization could be apparent by the end of the year. He noted that last year the government had been diverted from that path and similar attempts are being made now too.

The premier gave a brief description of the measures to achieve financial stabilization which were approved at the recent session of the Council of Ministers and it followed clearly from that account that this means B. Fedorov's well-known program. As for the debates about the fate of the privatization program, V. Chernomyrdin was quite definite there, too: "It would be a mistake to change the rules of the game in mid-match," he said, even though he recognized the possibility of making certain adjustments to the program.

Thus the attempt to attack the reform policy from within, which was launched at the beginning of September, has evidently ended in complete failure and predictions about the most likely successor to O. Lobov have become a fashionable theme in government corridors.

The prime minister also paid attention to domestic political problems. Stressing that a situation of political instability does nothing to help find a way out of the economic crisis and stating that there is a "cancerous tumor—dyarchy" in the country, V. Chernomyrdin said that the executive and legislative should work together and in harmony. In his opinion there is a real chance of overcoming the political crisis because clear tendencies toward rapprochement have been observed recently. The best way out of the crisis, the prime minister believes, would be to achieve accord on the question of the new Constitution, the institution of the Federation Council, and the holding of elections on the basis of the new law.

The actual atmosphere of the meeting with the deputies could be taken as quite convincing confirmation of the premier's words about the tendency toward accord. Despite the fact that the meeting was organized on the initiative of a small group of representatives of democratic factions around 300 legislators took part in the meeting representing not only the democratic wing of the deputies' corps but also the center. It is scarcely plausible that the plan to hold such an event and the premier's speech there were not coordinated with the president. Thus the premier's first criticism of the president (V. Chernomyrdin accused B. Yeltsin of making too many promises on the eve of the referendum that he could could not back up, which harmed the country's financial system) should evidently be taken as a signal that the president's side is confirming its readiness for talks.

Finance Ministry Says Regions' Budget Problem Resolved

PM2309141193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[POSTFACTUM report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" rubric: "Ministry of Finance Resolves Problem With Regions"]

[Text] As was reported at the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance 21 September, the ministry has satisfied the demand from 38 Russian regions to cover their budget debts.

If this had not happened, the regions were threatening to stop making contributions to the federal budget after 15 September. We were assured at the Ministry of Finance that this problem has now been resolved. As before, only Bashkortostan, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Chechnya, and Tatarstan are refusing to transfer money to the state budget.

Mixed Economic Policy Expected From Government

MK2309161093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 23 Sep 93 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy, Sergey Viktorov analysis: "Government Remains Face to Face With the Economy"]

[Text] Scenarios for the development of the situation in Russia are obvious and determined by two factors—on the one hand, the pressure of Western creditors and on the other, the expectations of Russian voters and the interests of lobbying blocs. An analysis of possible variants makes it possible to predict further steps by the executive power.

The following development of events would look rather logical. Pressed by Western creditors, the government (free from the parliament's counteraction the government traditionally used to refer to), demonstratively declares its commitment to financial stabilization, a spontaneous structural reform (where export sectors stay afloat and the rest sink), and the process of privatization. The president signs an edict on tougher credit policy occasioned by placing the Credit Bank under the government (according to Vladimir Shumeyko, this edict was ready for signing yesterday evening) and a package of documents appears providing for bigger budget revenues through tougher taxes. A bankruptcy mechanism is put in place. All these things also entail a cabinet reshuffle (it has partially happened): Yegor Gaydar, known for his commitment to financial curbs and especially to spontaneous structural reform, has been appointed first vice premier and minister of the economy. These steps may be accompanied by a declining role for the industrial wing, whose interests are represented by First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

Another scenario appears equally logical. Pressed by internal political circumstances—primarily the need to ensure support for the president from industrial circles and the electorate—the executive branch continues to finance Russian enterprises and the social sphere, and at any rate avoids raising taxes too sharply. Then one can soon expect documents supporting the priority sectors (especially agriculture) and the regions. This path presupposes that figures like Oleg Soskovets should stay in the cabinet or even grow stronger.

A combination of scenarios that has already become traditional appears more probable, however. Most probably, all the above mentioned documents on financial stabilization will be passed, albeit in softer terms, without

a steep tax hike. Appearing simultaneously will be documents supporting the priority sectors and the regions and continuing social programs. The key role in the cabinet is played by Gaydar, Fedorov, and Chubays; Soskovets will also retain his influence. This variant means a show of commitment to financial stabilization and market-oriented changes while stressing internal political support through massive financial injections and stronger state control over the economy. In point of fact, the government has been steering precisely this course up to the present. The new thing at the moment is that the government would now find it easier to veil the contradictions of such a policy—complete control over the budget and issuing credits would make it quite possible to favorably depict the situation in the economy both for the benefit of Western creditors and Russian voters.

Broadcasting Services 'Flotation' Decree Viewed

PM2309130593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Sep 93 p 1

[Andrey Podkopalov report and postscript: "Who Will Become the Owner of Television?"]

[Text] The recent presidential decree requires the flotation of the material and technical assets of the country's television and radio broadcasting service to be carried out according to a tight schedule. Into whose hands will this very powerful and as of today most effective instrument for shaping public opinion fall?

Kirill Ignatyev, deputy chairman of "Ostankino," answers this question for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's readers.

[Ignatyev] The collective of television and radio journalists will certainly be the main shareholder, but the interests of technical staff will also be taken into account. For example, the flotation of the television technical center is being carried out at the initial stage—and its staff will receive 49 percent of the shares. The remaining 51 percent will go to "Ostankino" and the All-Russia State Radio and Television Company, which will act together in decision-making. There is another category of future shareholders—the workers of enterprises providing services to television and radio—kindergartens, recreation centers, and so forth.

It is also intended to allocate a pool of shares to creative associations—journalists, cultural workers, writers.

Nor can it be ruled out that major national enterprises and foreign investors will participate in the flotation of the televison and radio companies. However, the share owned by foreign investors will be limited—both radio and television must remain nationally owned.

As far as the the value of the fixed capital of radio and television due for flotation is concerned, there is no accurate appraisal today. That work still has to be carried out...

Postscript:

Yesterday the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet suspended the operation of the president's television flotation decree and asked the Constitutional Court for a ruling.

Radio Rossii, BBC Launch Series on Small Business

LD2309203693

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1308 GMT on 23 September broadcasts a 4-minute report on a news conference held in Moscow devoted to (?MPM), a new program produced in collaboration between Radio Rossii and the BBC. Correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova reports that the program, which looks at the organization and conduct of small business, will be carried on Radio Rossii.

Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, is then interviewed on the history of productive cooperation between the BBC and Radio Rossii, which has moved from the level of exchanging information to the new venture. He explains that the aim of the programs is to help people learn from the present situation in the Russian economy and to look at problems concerning development of the market economy in Russia. He says the series now being launched deals with small business, with the BBC staff involved in making the programs having initially made a long preliminary study of the specific nature of the Russian market. Many of the programs were made jointly, he says, and all use Russian material only, bringing in important economists, business experts, and British experience of Russian entrepreneurs.

Regional Affairs

Vice Governor on Assistance for Kurils

OW2209205193 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 1905 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Studio interview with Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich Gemilevskiy, vice governor of Sakhalin, by Nataliya Latysheva; from the "Morning Program"—live]

[Excerpts] [Latysheva] We start this morning's program by meeting our studio guest, Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich Gemilevskiy, vice governor of Sakhalin. Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich, you have joined our "Morning Program," and being vice governor we will immediately begin by asking you the many questions we have prepared: I am aware you have just recently returned from a trip to the Kurils, which is closely connected with the creation of the Kuril Subzone. What are the results of your trip?

[Gemilevskiy] I and Comrade Shapoval—the second vice governor who is in charge of issues concerned with the supply of food, fuel, material and technical support—did not go there only to create the subzone, but primarily to stabilize the life of the people there. The Kurils are our sore spot and we, the oblast administration, are simply obliged to do everything possible to ensure winter does not

adversely affect the Kuril residents because of the confusion which exists in the country as a whole.

I must say the government commission's visit to the three islands in August, and the subsequent promulgation of the Supreme Soviet Presidium's well-known decree dated 27 August, sharply stabilizes the situation in the Kurils. What will be of particular interest to the Kuril residents is that the year-long marathon to create the program and transform it into reality is being decided by Council of Ministers today, 16 September, when it convenes at 1800 hours local time [0600 GMT]. Krasnoyarov, the governor, and Sirenko, the vice governor, are representing our oblast; they will not settle for a partial decision. They are fully determined to secure the complete decision for the entire program already approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. I think this decisive step will bring about the complete stabilization of life in the Kurils.

So without waiting for these decrees, we visited each island during the past 10 days to ascertain their individual needs, and we tried to do everything possible to see the Kurils begin winter with food and fuel. As a result of the trip, many measures have already been implemented, including those of fuel. I must tell you the tanker [name indistinct] is at present in Nakhodka and has already taken on half of its 4000 tonnes of diesel fuel; it will sail for Severo-Kurilsk to fully assure their fuel supply. The tanker Boris (Ogarevskiy), which so far has taken on 400 tonnes of diesel fuel in Nakhodka, has today sailed for Vladivostok where it will take on another 700 tonnes of diesel fuel, plus 300 tonnes of benzine, then sail for Kurilsk in a couple of days, stabilizing the situation there.

[Latysheva] I know they have no electricity in Severo-Kurilsk.

[Gemilevskiy] That is true, they have no fuel there at all at present.

[Latysheva] So in another two or three days this crisis will be over.

[Gemilevskiy] Quite right, and as far as the Yuzhno-Kurilsk Fish Processing Combine is concerned, they have 37 days supply of fuel. The Malokurilskoye Fish Processing Combine has only seven days supply. By this I do not mean to say we should not be concerned about them initially. Presently the oblast administration has allocated 500 million rubles in credits to the Ostrovnoy Fish Processing Combine, and an additional 300 million to the Northern fleet base so they can use this money and resolve the delivery of fuel through the [name indistinct].

As far as food is concerned at present, delivery of all types of food to all of the islands we checked—that is, Shikotan and Kunashir, the Yuzhno-Kurilskiy Rayon—is practically complete except for the canned vegetables and fruit which, as you know, we usually deliver in the fall following the harvests. I do not have any doubts all the issues concerning food to the Kurils will be resolved by the end of the navigation season. Of course, another very important thing was to deliver medicine; the last containers with medicine have been forwarded, so they are 100 percent provided for in that regards.

Well, so much for the trip! Besides this, we needed to stabilize the situation at the Dalnyy sovkhoz in the (Otradnyy) settlement near Yuzhno-Kurilsk. I was occupied with the farming situation there for two days. I cannot tell you everything in just one telecast; however, I think the attitude and measures being taken by the rayon administration, together with the material resource assistance we will be giving, will help to stabilize the situation there. In any case, we are happy to say it is already clear the measures we began taking last year have reduced the need to import potatoes and vegetables practically fivefold. That is quite a lot and is the result of painstaking work by the rayon administrations, and for that I am personally thankful to them. The agricultural department will continue to assist them. [passage omitted]

[Gemilevskiy] Some aspects of the Presidium's decree have begun to be put into practice. Even during my stay on Shikotan, the naval brigade received directives from the General Staff to immediately strengthen the guarding of the border. I will tell you this, even with two ships commencing border duties it has made quite a difference. In any case, during my crossings from Golovnino to Shikotan and from Shikotan to Yuzhno-Kurilsk, I did not see even one schooner. This already says a lot. I think while Russia remains Russia, the Sakhalin administration, together with the government of Russia, will be able to establish order. [passage omitted]

[Latysheva] Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich, our time is coming to an end, and I invite you to comment briefly on anything we have not already covered.

[Gemilevskiy] In conclusion, I would like to add that with the assistance of the rayon commissions, we have carried out the very important task of inventorying farms—you might remember I told you about the gratifying fact that farmers have begun to produce, so I will conclude on that note. We needed to work out a long-range plan and to find out what individuals like Nataliya Latysheva require? For example, whether nor not to have a road built and so forth. So this inventorying program showed us we have over 400 farmers who are already working quite well. It also helped us to work out a program for 1994-95. Of course we will further detail this work in the Sakhalin newspapers; however, I can tell you there was a lot of wild speculation over why we were doing this work. There was speculation saying we wanted to disband the farms and take their land away. Yes, during this process we uncovered people who have nothing to do with farming and who had registered for land just to escape paying taxes. They are involved in common commercial activities, but this will not be done by the oblast administration. [sentence as heard]

[Latysheva] Vitaliy Yevgeniyevich, it is quite normal that life and the economy itself has separated the wheat from the chaff.

[Gemilevskiy] No, no. I simply want to tell the people why this was being done. This inventory will really help us

separate the wheat from the chaff and allow a more normal course of long-term development to those who really want to work the land.

[Latysheva] If I am not mistaken, this farming program was instituted about three and a half years ago, and has nevertheless justified itself.

[Gemilevskiy] Yes, it is already bearing fruit. It is not good when people say: Well farmer, when are you going to start producing? We must first be able to say exactly what we have done for him; only then can we ask him when will he produce. I think this is the key work being done today. If we continue to work like this for approximately another three years our Sakhalin farmers, in contrast to many other regions in Russia, will really be proud and primary producers. [passage omitted]

Conditions Set for Settling Caucasus Conflict

MK2209112993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" column: "North Caucasus"]

[Text] A session of parliament of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus [CPC] discussed the situation in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone and ways to settle it. Taking part in the work of the CPC parliament's session were official delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, as well as Major General Ochirov, deputy chief of the provisional administration. A decree of the parliament and the CPC Presidential Council was passed. It says that in order to establish peace between the peoples of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, the CPC deems it necessary to:

1. As the first stage in implementing the Kislovodsk agreement and before 1 November 1993, start returning to Ingush who are not part of the conflict their homes with mandatory payment of material losses;

2. Immediately return, with no preconditions, all hostages (live and dead) before 15 October 1993;

3. Institute criminal proceedings equally against all persons who provoked the conflict and took part in combat actions from the Ingush, Ossetian, and Russian sides.

International Affairs

Russian Embassy Windows Broken; Protest Note Received

LD2309190393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] INTERFAX has been told by the spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Ukraine, in the early hours of Wednesday unidentified persons broke windows of the Russian Embassy in Kiev.

The Embassy sent a note to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The guard of the building was enforced, said the spokesman. There have been no more incidents yet.

Rukh Against Transfer of Heavy Bombers to Russia

LD2409091893 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1820 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Chernigov, 23 Sep—The Regional Council of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] has discussed at a special sitting the problem of transferring 18 TU-160 strategic heavy bomber airplanes from the Priluki Airbase to Russia. During his meeting with deputies to the Priluki city council, Regiment Commander Valeriy Horhol informed them about the results of the work done by experts, and expressed his opinion on the undesirability of transferring the bombers. Rukh has sent a message to the president and the defense minister of Ukraine containing a negative assessment of the intentions to either transfer or sell the most sophisticated bomber airplanes in the world, because such a move would lead to weakening Ukraine's defense capacity.

Defense Ministry Against Passions Over Black Sea Fleet

LD2409095893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1909 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Sep—Ukraine's Defense Ministry is against any attempts to fire political passions around the Black Sea Fleet units and for the solution of all disputable issues by means of negotiations, Colonel Anatoliy Lopata, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Ukrainian Armed forces Main staff, told a UKRINFORM correspondent. He pointed out that of late such attempts have been undertaken on the part of the Black Sea Fleet leadership. In particular, on 22 September there was a telephone conversation between Admiral Baltin, chief of the main staff and the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, which Anatoliy Lopata referred to as "unpleasant."

Eduard Baltin accused the Defense Ministry of the fact that it "has launched an unprecedented privatization of units and facilities of the Black Sea Fleet, taking advantage of the complicated political situation in Russia."

The way the question itself is formulated has neither legal nor logical grounds, pointed out Anatoliy Lopata. The thing is that back in January 1992, Ukraine's Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov and Colonel General Nikolay Chekov, deputy chief commander of the CIS armed Forces in charge of building and billeting of troops, signed a protocol "on the principles of interaction of the building and billeting bodies of the Defence Ministry of Ukraine, and the central building and billeting bodies during a transitional period." The very first article of this document stipulates that the building and billeting bodies of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine assume the leadership of the USSR Defense Ministry organizations and enterprises of the building and billeting bodies stationed on the territory of Ukraine.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry, proceeding from the protocol, issued relevant orders on the subordination of the building organizations of the districts and the fleet. A chief directorate of Ukraine's Defense Ministry military building was set up. All military building organizations were to be subordinated to it. However, as a result of unilateral forced actions by the former commander of the Black Sea Fleet, the building organizations of the fleet remained under the subordination of the fleet commander.

Despite the illegal nature of such actions, the Defense Ministry of Ukraine is not forcing the events and is solving problems step by step, by means of negotiations and agreements. Proceeding from the fact that all the military building organizations located on the territory of Ukraine, according to the protocol, are financed by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, it is carrying out work on organizing their activities, fulfilling building tasks by them. However, the actions by the Black Sea Fleet command led to boosting the situation, to the point that citizens of Ukraine, who took an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, serve in the building units which fulfil the tasks in the interests of a foreign state.

This will be inadmissible in future, when the Ukrainian Armed Forces are switched over to a contract system. In this situation the military builders have become a trump card in the hands of the Black Sea Fleet Command, which it uses for political purposes. The measures taken by the Defense Ministry are aimed at excluding the military builders from political games and involving them in the fulfilment of their direct duties, envisaging the construction of housing for the homeless servicemen. By the way, the servicemen of a number of collectives which are part of the structure of the Black Sea Fleet building directorate have appealed to the Defense Ministry with a request toward that end.

So, it is immoral, to say the least, to talk about the Defense Ministry as allegedly taking advantage of the complicated situation in Russia, the general said in conclusion. Long before these events we had been carrying out systematic work on regulating military building organizations stationed on the territory of our state.

British Defense Minister, Delegation Arrive in Odessa

WS2309132393 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] A friendly visit to Odessa by the British Navy frigate HMS Avenger had initiated Ukrainian-English military

contacts that were continued with today's arrival of a military delegation headed by British Defense Minister Malcolm Rifkind. The British servicemen were welcomed on Ukrainian soil by Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, deputy defense minister, Colonel General Vitaliy Redetskyy, commander of the Odessa Military District, British Ambassador to Ukraine Simon Hemans, and other local officials.

During their visit, the guests will see Odessa and tour the Ukrainian Navy ship Slavutych. Tomorrow, the delegation will arrive in Kiev.

Travel to Kiev

LD2309223593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Ukraine's Defense Minister Kostyantyn Morozov and his British counterpart Malcolm Rifkind met in Kiev today. They exchanged opinions on a wide range of issues of global and European security, Ukrainian-British relations, NATO's new role on our continent, and the settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia. A memorandum on mutual understanding about issues of bilateral contacts and cooperation between the military departments of both states was signed on the results of the negotiations. [Word indistinct], in particular, envisages consultations among experts on managing Armed Forces in a democratic society, and an exchange of experience as far as issues of combat and professional training are concerned. A two-year program of contacts along defense lines will be drawn up proceeding from the memorandum.

Kravchuk Meets UK's Rifkind

LD2309194593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] On 23 September, President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk received Malcolm Rifkind, secretary of state for defense of Great Britain, defense minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the head of the British military delegation, which is in Ukraine on a friendly official visit.

A conversation took place, in which the sides raised topical points of the domestic political and international life of the two states, countries of Europe, and the world order. The talk was also about the situation which has now arisen in CIS countries, and in Russia in particular, and about the situation in the hot spots of the former regions of the Soviet Union.

Leonid Kravchuk expressed support for the policy of Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and emphasized that the steps taken by him [Yeltsin] guarantee all rights for Russian citizens. The president of Ukraine expressed satisfaction with the results of the talks between the British military minister and his Ukrainian counterpart. He expressed the certainty that links between the peoples of Ukraine and Great Britain would develop further, including in military matters.

Plyushch Receives Turkish Parliamentary Group

AU2309153993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Dictated by the Need and Considerations of Mutual Advantage"]

[Text] Yesterday, I. Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, received a Turkish Republic parliamentary delegation headed by general secretary of the Turkish supreme legislative organ M. Telli [name as transliterated].

We feel it is necessary and advantageous to establish close ties with neighboring Turkey, stated the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament during the talks. I. Plyushch also informed the guests of Ukraine in detail about the changes expected to be introduced in our state's supreme legislative organ, with an orientation toward the creation of a professional parliament.

M. Telli, in turn, said that Turkey also had had problems with the formation of a professional parliament, but that these problems were resolved in due course.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Addresses Supreme Council on Early Elections

LD2309170593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Speech by President Leonid Kravchuk to the Supreme Council in Kiev—live]

[Text] Esteemed People's Deputies, esteemed electors: In connection with the debate on this issue at the session of the Supreme Council, and taking into account the fact that—together with the Supreme Council Presidium—I submitted a draft of the resolution for consideration by the session of the Supreme Council, I would like say the following:

First. At present, it is not about who is to blame more or who to blame less for what happened in Ukraine that is at issue for the people of Ukraine. Everybody knows—and people's deputies emphasized today—that there is no confidence in the authorities. This is the main thing.

The second thing is how to overcome this lack of confidence. Opinions were voiced that this could be done by good work in an organized manner. My opinion is that this is an illusion, because a collective body can work in an organized manner under two conditions: either when there are people with a similar manner of thinking here, or when there is a party-type discipline of the majority. There are neither of these two things here at the Supreme Council.

There is no confidence in executive power as well, and it is clear to everybody. Once again, I would not like to talk now about who is to blame more and who to blame less.

All that taken into consideration and the political situation within and without Ukraine analyzed, I have come to the conclusion that it is only by way of change on a legitimate

basis and through elections to every structure of power that the consolidation of our society can be achieved.

The people will elect new structures of power, will work together with them, and will be tolerant of them. This is the right of the people, and we cannot deprive the people of this supreme right.

Every conclusion of mine is based on my own analysis in the first place and, second, on hundreds of appeals from the staff of councils at all levels and now from even the miners, who have changed their opinion partially and think the only right way to overcome the crisis is through elections.

A referendum will yield nothing. This was testified to by both the developments and situation in a state that is friendly to us.

All that taken into consideration, I have come to the conclusion that early Ukrainian presidential elections should be held. I would like to declare from the Supreme Council's rostrum before my electors and before all the people, that on the day a new parliament will assemble for its sitting, I shall request it to organize the elections of the Ukrainian president.

Thus, I want to remove any suspicions and calm everyone down, both the electors and the deputies who have suspicions. The main thing is that those deputies who will vote today against the resolution submitted by us—together with the Supreme Council Presidium—will not be able then to accuse the president and say that he did not determine his position. I have determined my position and would like to declare it before all the Ukrainian people. I would also like to ask you to determine your position.

I can understand everybody. I can understand people's deputies who are saying that we were elected for a term of five years and are asking: Is there anything in the Constitution about the term being shorter? The president was also elected for five years, and it is not in the Constitution. I think that there is simply no point to argue.

The analysis of the state of affairs, the analysis of the situation, is that I would very much—very much—like the Supreme Council not to assemble and adopt a resolution under pressure from either railway men, or steel workers, or agrarians who now can also say that their patience has run out. I would like us to adopt this decision precisely here.

This, as it were, is an official part of my speech. Consider it—and I am addressing the electors and people—to be my official statement.

Now, some details.

I understand the attitude today toward the executive authority and toward the president. I do not want to be suspicious of someone that there could be some voting—well, let us say—that is not objective. But I would ask for this resolution to be voted on as a package, that is, together on all points.

Because it could happen that—and I heard speeches today on the principle of those heroes of the Twelve Chairs [Dvandatsyat Stiltsiv], who said: You want chairs in the evening, then give me the money in the morning; but if you want chairs in the morning, then give me the money in the evening. He could not work it out (?he always said), but he asked for the money in advance without fail.

And so, Mr. Tanyuk wants to bring down the president first without fail. That is, he will vote for that point of the resolution, but he will think some more about elections to the Supreme Council. Therefore, I would like this to be in a package. And so that there is no mistrust regarding the fact that the president can supposedly make a joke, I understand this aphorism of the people's deputy from Poltava Oblast—in that it has now caught his fancy to speak in aphorisms—especially as he is quoted by such a great writer as Yavorivskyy.

So that this does not occur, I want to reassure everyone. And I ask you very much, I ask you esteemed Supreme Council, esteemed people's deputies, however painful it might be, however difficult it might be: The interests of Ukraine, the interests of stabilization and calm are higher than the interests of each of us. And if one is to go into the articles of the Constitution today, then one can say anything. There is Article 97, however—and this was said today—which says that the Supreme Council has the exclusive right to adopt decisions on elections, both to the Supreme Council and to local bodies of power.

I anticipate that we will draw the right conclusion, and that we will adopt a decision that meets the interests both of stabilization and calm in Ukraine. I am calling you namely to this. And so that you do not accuse me of having come and gone, I did not expect to nor want to speak today, but I have official meetings at state level at 1630, and I have to go. I want to excuse myself to you. Good-bye.

Invitation for CIS Summit Transfer

LD2309195493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Soviet told President Kravchuk Thursday [23 September] night to invite CIS heads of state to transfer their summit from Moscow to Kiev.

Kravchuk told parliament that "he came to a conclusion that early presidential elections should be called." He and the Supreme Soviet Presidium had earlier submitted a draft parliamentary resolution calling parliamentary elections next March and presidential elections next July.

Kravchuk thinks that "it is only through legitimate changes of all power structures that the consolidation of society is possible." His decision, he said, was enhanced by the opinions of working people, notably miners. In his words, the miners understand that the referendum will lead nowhere, "as events in a friendly country have shown."

Kravchuk said that "this speech in the Supreme Soviet is his official address to Ukraine's citizens."

Council Begins Debate

LD2309132693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1149 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Kiev, 23 September—In accordance with the agenda of the plenary session of the session of the Supreme Council, people's deputies, chaired by Ivan Plyushch began debate on the issue of an all-Ukrainian referendum. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Council Presidium put forward a draft of the constitutional law on early presidential elections, to be considered by the deputies at the session. The draft, drawn up by the Supreme Council and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk on 22 September 1993, makes the following provision:

1. The Supreme Council resolution of 17 June on holding an all- Ukrainian referendum on confidence (no-confidence) in the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council is to be invalidated;

2. The date for the elections of Ukrainian people's deputies is to be set for 27 March 1994;

3. The date for the presidential elections is to be set for 26 June 1994, which is three months after the elections of Ukrainian people's deputies;

4. The date for the elections to the bodies of local self-government is to be set for 30 January 1994. [passage omitted]

Further on 23 Sep Session

LD2309213293 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1820 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 23 Sep—At the afternoon session, the deputies continued discussing the draft constitutional law on early elections of the Supreme Council and the president of Ukraine. Opinions concerning this issue split. The deputies agreed on one thing: that the resolution should be approved with certain corrections. Deputy Oleksandr Moroz, in particular, proposed that the question on the future state system be included in the referendum bulletins. Deputy Kotsyuba declared that he considered the draft resolution to be unconstitutional. In his opinion, it was necessary to carry out a rotation of deputies. Dmytro Pavlychko referred to parliament's move toward early elections as a wise one. According to him, Ukraine needs a new, party-structured parliament. Deputy Valentyn Tryzna pointed out that the main fault of the parliament was due to the fact that it allowed Ivan Plyushch to manipulate the situation.

Volodymyr Kryzhanivskyy, Ukrainian People's deputy and Ukraine's ambassador to Russia, participated in the debate. He said that reports were coming from Moscow to Ukraine's Foreign Ministry on a regular basis. "The situation in Moscow is quiet," he pointed out and assured that the decree approved by Yeltsin would be perceived by the people of Russia in a normal way.

Finance Minister Hryhoriy Pyatachenko reported on the financing of agriculture. He said that 3,600 billion karbovantsi were allocated for the use of credit resources (not on the basis of an emission but at the expense of deliveries in agriculture) of which 1,200 billion karbovantsi would be used as early as 24 September to pay to agricultural enterprises for meat and milk.

Speaking after the break, the Ukrainian president called on the deputies to approve the draft constitutional law on the early elections of the Supreme Council and the president. He declared that at the very first session of the newly elected parliament he would appeal to the Supreme Council with a request to hold new elections for president of Ukraine.

Kuchma Speaks on Future Government, Russian Ties

WS2309124993 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Report on news conference by former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma in Kiev on 22 September by Vitaliy Naumenko; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Naumenko] I would like to draw your attention to certain important, in my opinion, moments from former Prime Minister Kuchma's news conference today.

When asked about the future government composition, the former prime minister said:

[Kuchma] "I would not begin to change the government today, because it is hopeless to do it with a legislature that will have to resign. The sooner the Supreme Council resigns, the sooner a new government can be created. There are, as I see it, two solutions to the current situation. The first would be for the president to assume full power. I have always been a supporter of the idea that executive power should be concentrated in one pair of hands. In case it somehow happens that the legislature does not give the president such powers, there is a second way. We have Supreme Council Speaker Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch on our political scene. Maybe in this situation, the legislature will vote for him. There is no other way, because even if the president finds the best people, the legislature will denounce any program proposed by the new government. Anybody recommended by the president will be run down by the legislature. [passage indistinct]"

[Naumenko] Kuchma spoke decisively in favor of Ukraine's participation in the [Russia-Ukraine-Belarus] economic union. However, he pointed out that Ukraine should have its own currency.

[Kuchma] "It is very important that we not lose the Russian market, and the document that could be adopted by the three states says that prices for energy sources are the same for each of the three countries. This means that we can concentrate ourselves on this market."

[Naumenko] Russian media have recently disseminated a report that Russia has annulled the Massandra agreements on the transfer of Ukrainian nuclear weapons. Leonid

Kuchma was asked whether the Ukrainian Government had received any official statement on this issue, and about his opinion.

[Kuchma] "I believe that the documents on strategic nuclear weapons that we signed in Yalta represent a success for our country. Somehow there is nobody who wants to tell the simple truth that the nuclear warheads located on Ukrainian territory pose a threat to Ukraine. Moreover, it happens in a situation when Russia has practically annulled our agreement to provide warranty service on the missiles and has refused to sign an agreement on providing warranty service to the nuclear warheads themselves. Additionally, when the overheating occurred at the Nikolayev Oblast Pervomaysk division on 23-27 August, and on 11 September, I received a letter saying: Dear Prime Minister, help us, tell Russia to send specialists. You wrote a lot about our silence. I actually asked the Russian leadership to send specialists and engineers, and they came. Another very important fact is that Russia has recognized Ukraine's rights to those warheads. You know that until then, according to the START I treaty, we had not been the owners of any nuclear warheads. This means a lot to us. This means three years of free deliveries of nuclear fuel for our nuclear power plants, and we agreed that prices for nuclear charges will be fixed at world prices. This represents 30 percent of the country's total energy output. During this current energy crisis—I refer of course to our oil and gas shortages—it means a lot to Ukraine. We also agreed, on the government level, that Russia recognizes our rights to possess tactical nuclear weapons."

Politicians Comment on Kuchma's Resignation

WS2309141193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 15 Sep 93 p 3

[UNIAN report: "Politicians on Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma's Resignation"]

[Text] Mykola Zhulynskyy, deputy prime minister for questions of Humanitarian Policy: "What is my decision in this situation? To work as long as possible. Actually, the president and the prime minister asked me to do just that this morning. We, from the Cabinet of Ministers, understand this decision by Leonid Danylovych in light of a situation when there are appeals to work, while simultaneously there is no freedom to act. The prime minister has confirmed today that he will work until the beginning of the next Supreme Council session. His decision is final. In my opinion, it will be a long time before the deputies decide to whom to offer the office of prime minister. It seems obvious that the president will charge one of the deputy prime ministers with the prime minister's duties."

Ivan Zayets, head of the People's Council: "In my opinion, the issue of the resignation of certain repugnant people from the Cabinet of Ministers should be introduced after Leonid Kuchma leaves the government. I am referring to Deputy Prime Ministers Landyk and Yevtukhov. I believe that the Supreme Council will accept Leonid Kuchma's resignation."

Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Rukh: "The Rukh introduced the issue of the prime minister's resignation long ago. In our opinion, the entire Kuchma team should resign because they have not met the expectations of becoming a reform government. However it is possible that the next government will not be better than the present one. Until the latest negotiations between Yeltsin and Kravchuk we had believed that the Cabinet of Ministers should be headed by the Ukrainian president. Now we fear this idea. However, it is very likely that a situation of Kravchuk taking on the prime minister's duties will remain the only possibility."

Ivan Drach, head of Ukraine society: "I welcome Kuchma's decision to finally leave the government, but I do not know how the legislature will rule on 21 September. In my opinion, under the current circumstances, Ivan Plyushch should become the new prime minister. He is a man of a firm hand and broad horizons. The Supreme Council Chairman post is not good for him."

Oleksandr Barabash, head of the Union of Leaseholders of Ukraine: "I am not excited by this step by the prime minister. Kuchma is a pretty cautious man. Maybe he decided to leave the government on the eve of new price hikes simply because he wanted to avoid the responsibility. However, I would rather say that this was caused by some kind of political game within the Ukrainian leadership."

Defense Ministry Disciplines Officers Union for Statement

AU2309163493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Messrs. Officers, Who Is Out of Step?"]

[Text] The events around the statement issued by Ukraine's Officers Union [SOU], which is supposed to be above politics, have been developing in quite an intriguing way. Let us remind you that they erupted after a certain statement by SOU was published in the newspaper KHRESHCHATYK. The statement particularly sharply criticized the political course of our country's top officials. The board of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense has condemned such politicization of the SOU military officers to the extent of dismissing them from the Armed Forces, has appointed an official investigation and found it necessary, even prior to the completion of the investigation, to propose that Major General Oleksandr Skipalskyy resign from the post of SOU chairman. O. Skipalskyy, in turn, made a statement, in which he asserted that the SOU executive committee never adopted the statement carried in KHRESHCHATYK.

Moldova

Moscow Events Lead to Breakdown of Ruble's Rate

AU2309125293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1824 GMT 22 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 22/9/1993—In the last 24 hours, the rate of Russian ruble to the US dollar fell by 255 rubles at the Moldovan National Bank. Today, the exchange office of the National Bank was buying $1 for 2,143 rubles and selling it for 2,233 rubles. Economic experts qualify this situation as a total breakdown of the Russian ruble caused by last events in Russia. The same phenomenon is registered in Moscow. It is for the first time at the National Bank of Moldova when the rate of ruble to dollar exceeds 2,000 rubles. Nevertheless, local observers notice the passivity of commercial banks and private exchange offices which sell U.S. dollars for a rate between 1,850 and 2,000 rubles. A slight increase—50-100 points was registered in comparison with yesterday.

Ministry Issues Statement on Conflict in Georgia

AU2409094993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1937 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 23/9/1993—"We are concerned about the aggravated situation in Georgia connected with the intensified armed confrontation and violence which caused significant human and material losses," says the statement of the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The MFA appreciates the political flexibility and efforts of the Georgian leadership to solve the conflict. It also considers that Russia should guarantee the fulfillment of the Sochi Agreement. The evolution of the conflict resembles that from the eastern Moldovan districts. International organizations, especially the UN ones, should immediately intervene to solve the conflict of Abkhazia as well as other regional conflicts, says the statement of the Moldovan MFA.

Further on Ministry Statement

LD2409131293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By MOLDOVA PRESS for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau September 24 TASS—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova said in a statement today that the republic is alarmed by the worsening of the political situation in Abkhazia.

The Moldovan Foreign Ministry praised the efforts and political mobility of the Georgian leadership in handling the conflict but found it necessary to note that it is for Russia to play the part of the guarantor of the Sochi peace accords.

According to the Moldovan Foreign Ministry, developments in Abkhazia have very much in common with what is happening in the Dniester area which is seeking to break away from Moldova just as Abkhazia has been seeking to secede from Georgia.

This, according to Moldova, calls for a more active intervention by international organizations, including the United Nations, in the settlement of the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia.

The Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs favors the immediate application of the relevant resolution of the U.N. Security Council and calls on the warring sides to end bloodshed and immediate resumption of peace talks.

Tau Sees 14th Army as 'Constant Threat' to Stability

AU2309195993 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 20 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Nicolae Tau by Dinu Mihail; place and date not given: "The 14th Army in the Vision of the Council of Europe"]

[Text] [Mihail] Recently you paid a visit to Strasbourg at the invitation of the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe. Mr. Minister, would you please give us some details about the aim of that diplomatic move?

[Tau] This visit is part of the political dialogue initiated by the Ministerial Committee for countries with special invitee status, which hope to become full members of the Council of Europe in the future. Our country was granted this special status on 5 February 1993, and recently the Ministerial Committee started the procedures for Moldova to join the Council of Europe. This means that soon two lawyers will be appointed to examine the compatibility of our domestic legislation with international law. If this legal expertise and the reports are favorable, we have every chance for Moldova's candidacy as full member of the Council of Europe to be discussed next spring.

[Mihail] You had meetings with several officials, during which you exchanged views on how Moldova's integration into European structures will take place. Concretely speaking, what is the stage of this integration process?

[Tau] Connecting Moldova to European structures does not depend exclusively on our diplomatic competence, which, unfortunately, may not always be at the level required because of lack of experience. To a great extent this also depends on the incapability of the Western states to absorb a large number of countries from Central and Eastern Europe. This is also proved by the fact that it is much easier to adhere to political-strategic organizations than to economic ones. For example, at this point Moldova is a member of the CSCE and the North-Atlantic Cooperation Council, and enjoys the status of special invitee to the Council of Europe; with the European Community, however, our relations are still in an incipient stage.

[Mihail] Russia makes the withdrawal of the 14th Army conditional on granting the self-proclaimed Dniester Moldovan Republic special legal status. How does the Council of Europe see the solution to this problem?

[Tau] The Russian 14th Army constitutes a constant threat for our domestic stability and national independence. Apart from that, it is also a source of international destabilization. This Army constantly interferes in the domestic

affairs of Moldova, the most recent example in this sense being the election of General Lebed to the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Dniester Moldovan Republic. It is training military separatist forces, while the Tiraspol leaders may use its weapons depots any time. The Russian Army encourages the hopes harbored by secessionists, namely to return to the previous political status quo. Consequently, they are intransigent during negotiations. Thus, the withdrawal of these foreign armed forces from Moldovan territory plays a key role in solving the conflict in the East. The Russian side links the withdrawal of its units to granting special status to the eastern zone of the Republic of Moldova. Our government is prepared to grant a certain status to those rayons; however, this has nothing to do with the withdrawal of the Army from the territory of Moldova. This withdrawal has to take place immediately, completely, and unconditionally, as stipulated in a number of documents from the CSCE and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in conformity with the principle that a foreign army cannot be deployed on the territory of a state without the agreement of its government. Both officials within the Council of Europe and the majority of its member countries support us with regard to the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Similarly, the January session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe is expected to examine the presence of Russian armies in other countries.

Tiraspol Detainee Ilascu Blames Snegur for Trial

AU2309191193 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 21 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Ilie Ilascu, leader of the Moldovan detainees in Tiraspol, by Mihai Vicol; in "a basement room of the Kirov House of Culture in Tiraspol"; date not given: "The Guilty Ones Are in Chisinau"]

[Text] [Vicol] Ilie, another stage of the trial has ended. What is your opinion about the evidence presented to the panel of judges?

[Ilascu] It is obvious that they want to make us look guilty. Everything that you saw on the table, that is, mortars, sniper rifles, handguns, bullets, offensive and defensive grenades [grenade de ofensiva si defensiva], bags of explosives, and timers used for mines with delayed detonation are all their proof that they set up everything here according to a poorly directed scenario. Between Causeni—from where they claim they brought these weapons—and Tiraspol there are five checkpoints. Just imagine that during the war there were even more checkpoints and more rigorous inspections were carried out. Thus, it would have been impossible to bring such weapons into Tiraspol.

[Vicol] Colonel Bergman was a witness at the trial. How do you explain this?

[Ilascu] I called Col. Bergman in order to show public opinion that it is all a game. I personally did not need him. I just wanted to prove that those who tortured me are Gheciu, who currently is working with the police at the Chisinau Railroad Station and Garbov, who wanted to destroy all of us. He has retired to the town of Balti. I have insisted that the state and judicial bodies in the Republic of Moldova bring them before the court.

[Vicol] You have stated that those who are going to lock you up are not those in the Tiraspol leadership, but mainly those in Chisinau. This is paradoxical....

[Ilascu] I am sure that Smirnov [head of the Dniester region] would like to see me free, but Snegur would not be happy if we were set free. He still wants us to stay here. He knows that if I get out of here, I will fight in every possible way against the Snegur regime. Mircea Snegur and Andrei Sangheli do not want help from Bucharest. One should understand that everything is a political game and I believe that the authorities in Bucharest are afraid to get involved in the internal affairs of the second Romanian state; they keep forgetting that this land is Romanian. If Romania does not get involved, nothing can be achieved.

[Vicol] Has Mircea Snegur's visit to Moscow changed anything as far as the trial is concerned?

[Ilascu] I see no changes whatsoever. If anything new had come up, today we would have been free. In whose interest is it to keep us here if we are not guilty? This entire trial was organized by Snegur, and we are in the hands of those in Chisinau rather than in the hands of the Tiraspol authorities.

[Vicol] Is it necessary that Stefan Uratu be present at the trial?

[Ilascu] Stafan Uratu can tell a lot, and he is accused of working out the plans for the minefields. Through this accusation Tiraspol wants to declare him a terrorist. He should claim his innocence by sending a letter to the panel and in that letter he should dispel the suspicions that are hanging over him.

[Vicol] Do you have anything with which to reproach anybody?

[Ilascu] Yes, I do. Some journalists in Chisinau are opportunists, cowards, and are sick of the fear of communism. You can tell Victor Gherman at MOLDOVA PRESS that he is not an honest man. I asked him some time ago to give the Popular Front of Moldova in Chisinau a document, but he defected to Mircea Snegur's camp.

[Vicol] I understand how upset you are, but whom would you like to thank for anything?

[Ilascu] I would like to thank all of you who work with the ROMANIA LIBERA, the newspaper COTIDIANUL, and the Bucharest Radio "Actualitati" program. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to King Mihai and tell him that we fully support him. Maybe God will help me to meet him once. We, those who are imprisoned here, wish him to be at the helm of the country. I still hope that Romania's historical parties will achieve unification.

[Vicol] Do you wish to send a message to anybody?

[Ilascu] To my daughter Olga, who is in the town of Deva, I would like to tell to study hard, to be dutiful, and well behaved. I have another request: I would like to ask the

editors at the Bucharest Radio Romania's "Actualitati" program to visit my daughter, record her voice, and broadcast the recording on their radio station between 0700 and 0800 in the morning, because I miss her very much, and I want to hear her voice. This is the wish of a parent who would like to hug his children.

Communist Party Head Stresses Territorial Integrity

AU2409132893 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1937 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 23/9/1993—Ion Gutu, former secretary of the Communist Party [CP] of Moldova, now member of the organizing committee for preparing and running the founding congress of the renewed Communist Party of Moldova, gave an interview to the weekly DELOVAYA GAZETA (Business Paper). In this interview he says that the future party is going to contribute to preserving Moldova's territorial integrity and to the mutual understanding between those who, "because of the politicians' criminal neglect, watch each other through back-sights." Gutu proves his statements by the fact that the founding congress was attended by representatives from Transdniester and the Gagauz region. "We know that there is a Communist Party in Transdniester. We hope to set up tight contacts with communists from Transdniester regarding their participation at the founding congress," stated Gutu. Being asked whether the Communist Party will claim its patrimony back, Gutu declared that this conflict will be solved according to the legislation. he added that the new party will not claim its patrimony donated to hospitals and institutes of culture. "The final decision concerning the patrimony taken by the state belongs to the communists," stated Gutu.

Government Helps Press in 'Critical Financial Situation'

AU2409133093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1937 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 23/9/1993—According to a decision of the Moldovan Government of 20 September, 10 million rubles were allocated to the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA (Independent Moldova) for current activity. This newspaper received the money according to the decision of the Parliamentary Presidium from the government fund. Previously, on 17 September the government decided to allocate 50 million rubles to the same newspaper that "will reimburse the money until 1 January 1994. Sources from the Association "Posta Moldovei" (Moldovan Mail) say that most newspapers are in a critical financial situation. As a result, the newspapers are not edited according to their schedule. For example the parliament's daily SFATUL TARII (The Country's Council) and PACEA CIVICA (Civic Peace) halted their editing for an unknown term; other newspapers such as MOLDOVA SUVERANA (Independent Moldova) reduced the number of issues per week. According to the same sources, newspapers supported by businessmen are in a more secure situation.

Kazakhstan

Talks Held With U.S. Delegation at Defense Ministry

LD2409090993 Mos cow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty September 24 TASS—Problems pertaining to the practical implementation of the treaty to reduce and restrict strategic offensive weapons were discussed here today during talks with a U.S. delegation, dealing with problems of dismantling nuclear weapons in the former republics of the USSR.

The Kazakh delegation was led by Defence Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov, and the American—by Ambassador James Goodby.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the identity of their views on the need to consistently fulfil the commitments assumed under the treaty and the Lisbon Protocol to it.

Touching on problems, linked with the dismantling of strategic offensive weapons, the head of the American delegation expressed readiness to render Kazakhstan technical assistance and financial aid, which would not affect the interests of its sovereignty and security, as well as the interests of third states.

Agreements Signed on New Bank, Russian Monetary Links

LD2309224193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Report by German Solomatin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Nursultan Nazarbayev, the president of Kazakhstan, is a man of business. Bankers and politicians in the United States have a high degree of confidence in him and in Kazakhstan. This was said of him by Mr. Douglass, vice chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, at the signing today in the Kazakhstan Embassy in Moscow of an agreement on the founding of the Kazakhstan International Bank [Kazakhstanskiy Internatsionalnyy Bank]. The bank's main functions will be to assist Kazakhstan in implementing and regulating currency exchange, and controlling Kazakhstan's cash flows and currency reserves.

Also signed today was an agreement on uniting the Kazakh and Russian monetary systems, which opens up interesting possibilities for the stabilization of the ruble in the space of these two republics, since the first article of the agreement says that Kazakhstan and Russia apply a single ruble rate with respect to the currencies of third countries, while the emission of the monetary mass is regulated only by the Russian Central Bank.

Judging by the steps taken and the consistency shown by Nursultan Nazarbayev toward the creation of effective economic links between Russia and Kazakhstan and economic union, Russia has the same view of him as the United States—a man of business.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] Given the 70 percent integration of the economies of Russia and Kazakhstan, I consider that this is the correct solution, and we should jointly increase the weight of the ruble. [end recording]

Armenia

Reportage on Situation Along Azerbaijan-Karabakh Front

Karabakh Troop Withdrawal Reported

NC2309145293 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1101 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The situation is remaining relatively stable on the Azerbaijan-Karabakh front, and there were no serious incidents today.

In keeping with the 21 September statement of Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] State Defense Committee, the Karabakh formations are, as a goodwill gesture, withdrawing 7 to 12 kilometers on all fronts from the areas under their control. The NKR leadership is expecting reciprocal steps from Azerbaijan.

Further on Talks, Border Activities

NC2309194893 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The latest reports from Nagorno-Karabakh indicate that the situation in the confrontation areas is relatively peaceful. The sides are heeding the cease-fire agreement. It is hoped that the cease-fire agreement will be extended for 30 days. The NKR leaders have made an initiative in that regard. That has confirmed the Armenian side's peaceful intentions. Talks are being held between the two sides at the present time. The main objective of the talks is to extend the cease-fire agreement and hold a high-level meeting between NKR and Azerbaijani leaders. Meanwhile, attention will be focused on matters related to the withdrawal of troops from several areas that are controlled by the Armenian forces. Undoubtedly, the Armenian side hopes that Azerbaijan's leaders will adopt a compromising approach on various issues. That is the approach that is needed for productive talks and for the establishment of the conditions required to gradually end the confrontation.

Talks are better than fighting. The bitter outcome of the war must be kept in mind. Playing with the future of our peoples is a crime. A peaceful way must be found to resolve the existing problems and disputes. Meanwhile, the security of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh must be guaranteed and their right to independence must be recognized.

Let us now report on the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. A relatively peaceful situation existed in that area for a few days. The leaders of several border rayons held talks and agreed to halt the firing. That created favorable conditions for the resumption of agricultural work in the border areas. Unfortunately, however, Azerbaijan failed to remain fully committed to its promises once again. The Armenian Ministry of Defense Information Service has reported that the situation along Koti's border in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon deteriorated yesterday afternoon. The Azerbaijani units fired on the Armenian defense positions with machine guns and infantry combat vehicles. The Armenian forces refrained from taking retaliatory measures. No one was hurt in the incidents.

We wish to hope that the neighboring side will take the necessary measures to obstruct provocative activities that may worsen the situation once again.

Direct Talks Continue in Askeranskiy

NC2309181393 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The direct talks that started in Moscow between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan are continuing. In keeping with a previous agreement, a meeting was held between the prime ministers of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan Republics, Zhirair Pogosyan and Abbas Abbasov respectively, on the border of Askeranskiy Rayon today.

A number of urgent economic problems for both sides were discussed at the meeting, including the reopening of the railway entering the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and of the Yevlakh-Stepanakert and Goris-Nakhichevan gas pipeline and the resumption of the supply of irrigation water to the Azerbaijani regions bordering the NKR.

Although no concrete timetable was mentioned by the negotiators for the reciprocal lifting of the blockade, the meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Zhirair Pogosyan and Abbas Abbasov agreed not only to continue the direct dialogue but also to try, through the working groups, to finally solve all the problems related to the lifting of the blockade.

Karabakh Hands Over Azerbaijanis

NC2309182793 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Press and Information Department has reported that the Karabakh side handed over 14 Azerbaijani captives, nine of whom were civilians and five POW's, to the representatives of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry and the Russian Embassy in Baku on the border of Agdamskiy Rayon on 22 September. They were exchanged for six Russian servicemen, five of whom were condemned to death by the Azerbaijani supreme court for taking part in military operations on the Karabakh side.

U.S. Envoy Talbott Arrives, Meets President

OW2309132393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 21 Sep 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] U.S. diplomats started frequenting the Yerevan White House, as the presidential palace is called here, since last year. The reason for the intense U.S. interest in the Transcaucasusian region is the geopolitical strategy of this country, which is trying to expand its influence in the east of the former USSR. However, Armenia has firmly maintained its position as Russia's ally and a member of the CIS during the past few years of the big political game. This results in the ever-increasing caliber of the U.S. politicians who visit Yerevan. President Ter-Petrosyan is a born centrist and does not believe that Armenia's natural allegiance with Russia should be formed to the detriment of normal relations with the West. However, during the meeting with Ambassador Talbott he pointed out the aggressive position adopted by a U.S. ally; namely, Turkey, in the complex political situation in the region. In its turn, the U.S. ambassador expressed concern over the progression of the Karabakh conflict. The two sides agreed that a direct dialogue between the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] would bring peace closer in a much more effective way than the long-winded and fruitless international conferences.

Minister Briefs Armenian-Americans on Fuel Supplies

NC2409105093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Armenian State Minister Sepuh Tashdzhyan today received a delegation of the Armenian Assembly of America. We now have a report by Lida Gazaryan:

[Begin Gazaryan recording] Some 51 representatives of the Armenian Assembly of America are on a seven-day visit to Yerevan to have a close look at the current situation in the Republic and to participate in the second anniversary of the Republic's independence.

They were received by the Catholicos of All Armenians Vazgen I. They also held meetings at the Communications Ministry; visited Garni, Gegard, and Sardarabad; and attended the independence ceremonies.

They met Armenian State Minister Sepuh Tashdzhyan today. In briefing the guests on the efforts of the Republic's leadership for the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict and on the energy situation in the Republic, Tashdzhyan noted that, despite the fact that Armenia should have received 10 million cubic meters of gas per day in accordance with the agreement signed with Turkmenistan, it is receiving only 2 million cubic meters for obvious reasons.

Three million tons of oil should have been received from Russia in accordance with an agreement signed with that country, but so far only 30 percent of that amount has been received. Some $7 million dollars are needed to transport that oil from Russia to Georgia and then to Armenia.

Mr. Tashdzhyan hoped that there would be some help on this matter from the U.S. Government and the EC. He also hoped that the Armenian Assembly would help.

Referring to the reopening of the nuclear power plant, Mr. Tashdzhyan noted that the studies and restoration works are continuing and that prestigious specialists have already given their consent for the plant's possible reopening and its security.

Hrayr Hovnanian, the president of the Armenian Assembly and the president of the board of administrators of the Haynaft [Armenian Oil] Fund, was present at the meeting and spoke about the oil and gas drilling planned by the Republic. [end recording] [passage omitted]

President Meets Egyptian Envoy, Stresses Ties

NC2309193993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held a private meeting today with Egyptian charge d'affaires in Armenia Ahmad Fu'ad Raslani.

In delivering a reply letter from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the president, Mr. Raslani said that the Egyptian president and people are well aware of the developments in Armenia and the region. He said that Egypt has warm feelings toward the Armenian people and is ready to provide assistance to achieve a stable peace in the region.

In stressing the mutual advantages of close cooperation between Armenia and Egypt, the Egyptian charge d'affaires assured that the presence of the Egyptian mission [in Yerevan] will contribute to the improvement of relations between the two countries.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan noted that Armenia is aware of Egypt's role in preserving peace and stability in the Near East, and he believes that Armenia could develop relations with other Arab countries through Egypt. The president noted that relations with Egypt could be mutually advantageous if the problem of transportation routes is solved.

Proceeding from the fact that the Arab League is based in Cairo, and noting Egypt's influential role in the OAU, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan hoped that Egypt would help prevent a religious overtone in the Karabakh conflict, something that could cause the conflict to spread.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires noted that Egypt is aware that settling the Karabakh conflict and defining the status of Nagorno-Karabakh are important for preserving a balance in the region.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev, U.S. Ambassador Discuss CIS, Russia Events

NC2309191693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, received U.S. Ambassador Richard Miles at his request today. Aliyev said that such meetings are important to improve relations with other countries. Meanwhile, before his departure to Moscow he assessed the meeting as a positive development.

Geydar Aliyev recalled the National Assembly's recent decision on Azerbaijan's membership with the CIS, saying: The deputies expressed their views on the provisions of the CIS Charter and voted in favor of Azerbaijan joining the CIS during the six-hour meeting held by the National Assembly. The National Assembly's main view on the matter was that Azerbaijan's independence must not be harmed in any way and that it must not be isolated from the other countries.

On his part, Amb. Miles said: The question of membership with the CIS concerns Azerbaijan's internal affairs and we do not wish to interfere. The matter cannot affect the improvement of relations between Azerbaijan and the United States.

The tense political situation in Russia was also discussed. Geydar Aliyev said that Azerbaijan supports democratic reforms. He noted: The reports from the north [words indistinct] the restoration of the former alliance. However, we believe that this is impossible. The clock must not be turned back. It is very natural that President Clinton has made a similar statement.

Amb. Miles said that he was satisfied with [word indistinct]. The two sides expressed the hope that stability will be established in Russia through common sense. Later, Aliyev and Amb. Miles discussed matters concerning the two sides. State Secretary Lala Shovkat Gadzhiyev, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, and [name and title indistinct] attended the meeting.

Aliyev Addresses Students on Defense, Ties with Russia

LD2309221993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin, edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Meeting with delegates of the Azeri youth and students, the acting president Geydar Aliyev called on them to focus their attention on elevating the defense capability of the country. Aliyev believes that young Azeris must do more serious military training.

The Azeri leader has said that increased attention to the strengthening of the defense potential of the republic does not mean that these efforts dominate over Baku's diplomatic steps to settle the Karabakh conflict. He hopes, for example, that the results of the Minsk CSCE group meeting opened in Paris September 22 will help achieve positive shifts in the process.

Speaking about relations with Russia, Aliyev has said that despite the fact that Azerbaijan is developing ties with the West, Russia is still a valuable channel for Azerbaijan's going out to Europe to acquaint itself with the world cultural values. He also said about his determination to seek that the Azeri students be taught at Russia's central colleges and universities, including in Moscow and St. Petersburg (according to the information obtained by Presidential Bulletin during Aliyev's meeting with the Russian defense minister the two sides discussed the possibility for training military personnel for Azerbaijan).

Defense Ministry on Armenian North Karabakh Offensive

NC2409142293 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1338 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 24.09.03 (ASSA-IRADA)—Armenian troops assumed offensive in the north of Karabakh today September 24, at 12 Armenian sub-units assumed offensive in direction of Umudlu-Gulistan, ASSA-IRADA was told at the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. Yesterday night of Armenian sub-units with support of 7 tanks captured the hill Agburun in Khodzhavend [Martuninskiy] District and advanced to the frontier between Fizulinskiy and Agdzhabedinskiy Districts of Azerbaijan. One soldier was killed, three wounded, the rest soldier were encircled. With support of the police detachments of Beylagan, Yevlakh and Khodzaly 12 soldiers, three wounded and one corpse were withdrawn of encirclement in the battles. The destiny of the rest was unknown. As it became known today as a result of the telephone conversation between Vice-Speaker of Azerbaijan [National Assembly] Dzhalilov and defence minister of Armenia these 12 Azerbaijanis soldiers were captured the negotiations on their liberation are being conducted.

Presidential Press Service Reports Clashes

NC2309194193 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

["Text" of statement issued by the Presidential Press Service; date not given]

[Text] Positive progress has been recently observed in the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan. However, regardless of the efforts made by Azerbaijan's leaders, the Armenian Armed Forces have maintained their aggressive activities against our Republic.

The residential areas in Kazakhskiy Rayon, including the rayon center, were fired on from Armenia on 14 and 15 September. Consequently, several peaceful people were killed or wounded and extensive damage was caused. The Armenian forces tried to penetrate Azerbaijan's defensive lines in Tauzskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons and in Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] on 16 September. Furthermore, they intensified their offensive activities along Azerbaijan's entire border. The towns in Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy, and Sadarak Rayons were fired on from Armenia once again on 17 September. The towns in Tauzskiy Rayon and those in the NAR's Ordubadskiy Rayon were fired on with various types of arms on 21 September.

Considering the cease-fire agreement, the Azerbaijan National Army units refrained from taking retaliatory measures in all cases.

Meanwhile, Armenia's combat vehicles and military units have been observed to assemble in an area adjacent to

Kazakhskiy Rayon during the past few days. That is an indication of the Armenian side's aggressive intentions.

All that is a gross violation of international law. That state of affairs proves that the violation of agreements and the worsening of the dispute and local tensions is the result of the policy pursued by Yerevan, which is not interested in the effort made to find a peaceful solution to the long-standing military dispute. In view of that, Azerbaijan's leaders urge the United Nations, the UN Security Council members in particular, to take measures to compel Armenia to go along with efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem and quickly comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 822 and 853.

Accord on Energy, Transport Blockade Said Reached

LD2309203593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The twice-postponed meeting of Vice-Premiers Abbas Abbasov of Azerbaijan and Zhirair Pogosian of Nagorno-Karabakh was held in the no-man's land in the Agdam District Thursday. The two discussed lifting the energy and transport blockade of Karabakh and Armenia.

According to Pogosian, an agreement was reached. Working groups will be set up to settle all issues. At their meeting, which was held in a constructive atmosphere, the two sides also discussed exchange of hostages.

Aliyev Tipped To Win 3 Oct Presidential Elections

MK2309105293 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 56, 23 Sep 93 (signed to press 22 Sep) p 4

[Mekhman Gafaly report: "Presidential Candidates"]

[Text] The republic's central electoral board on 20 September registered three candidates for the country's president: Kyarrar Abilov, deputy chairman of the Gummet party; Zakir Tagiyev, vice president of the "Azerbaijan-Ukraine" society; and Geydar Aliyev, the current acting president.

None of the candidates is a serious rival to Aliyev, who has gathered more than 500,000 signatures from the voters. K. Abilov and Z. Tagiyev are absolutely unknown political figures. The former is an associate professor at the Institute of Russian Language and Literature, and the latter is an entrepreneur, though the parties they represent are not in opposition. As for the opposition, it has already announced its decision not to contest the upcoming presidential elections. Abilov's and Tagiyev's uncompetitiveness, as well as the current sociopolitical situation in the republic, suggests that Mr. Aliyev will surely be elected president on 3 October.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Addresses People, Encourages Defenders

LD2309184393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] During a lull in the shelling of Sukhumi by Abkhaz separatists, Eduard Shevardnadze appeared on the balcony of an office building in Sukhumi to address people who gathered there and to encourage defenders of the city.

Gela Charkviani, a diplomatic adviser of the head of the Georgian state, said: He is our commander in chief, and he is committed to an extraordinary mission in Sukhumi: to save the country and his people.

Shevardnadze, as a former diplomat of the perestroyka age who returned to his native Georgia in March 1992 to take up the reins of power, knows the meaning and power of symbols very well. If he endangers his life in a small, mostly destroyed seaside town, this is because his country's future is being decided there.

Holds News Conference

LD2309205393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Today in Sukhumi, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze held a news conference for Georgian and foreign journalists. He assessed the current situation in the city as very complicated. He added that there were positive developments in the activities of the Georgian Armed Forces defending Sukhumi. Shevardnadze considered the Georgian troops' removal of mercenaries from the suburbs of Sukhumi as positive. Operations on clearing the city went on successfully. Many bandit units have been liquidated. Unfortunately, there are casualties on our side, too.

Shevardnadze optimistically assessed the prospects in respect of time. He said: It will take our units coming from the east a few hours to break through the line near Ochamchire and enter Sukhumi. Then we will be in a much better position. We have not been short of manpower. A group of fighters has arrived from Kutaisi. Sukhumi is under siege today. Separatists started a hunt for passenger planes. That is why the airport is not operating. There is no telephone link with the outside world, either. But the main thing is that we are witnessing a turning point. The aggressors failed to accomplish their plans.

Today, the Gudauta side blew up yet another commercial aircraft at Sukhumi Airport. I had to send special forces to defend Sukhumi Airport by Sukoi-25 aircraft. When asked if the Gudauta side could have downed this aircraft, Shevardnadze said that it had been flown by an experienced pilot. The plane could have been downed only by using the most up-to-date equipment. The Gudauta side can by no means have such equipment. They are only in Russia's possession. Answering a question on who issued an order to down the plane, Shevardnadze said: I am positive that the order came neither from Yeltsin nor from Grachev.

Urges All With Arms To Help

LD2409101193 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0930 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Sep—Radio communication was established with Sukhumi at 1130. Head of state Eduard Shevardnadze announced that the situation in Sukhumi is

extremely complex and that the enemy is using every means to take the town. Battles are taking place in its streets.

Shevardnadze has called on everyone who has arms, all Georgians, to help Sukhumi immediately; otherwise, said Shevardnadze, the fate of Gagra awaits Sukhumi.

This information was transmitted by Georgian television at 1230.

Further Reportage on Military Situation in Sukhumi

Armed Forces Clearing Out 'Invaders'

LD2309175393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Report from the Head of State's Press Service]

[Text] As we have reported, groups of Abkhaz separatists and mercenaries have infiltrated Sukhumi's suburbs. They have managed to capture several neighborhoods and create a direct threat to a vital route.

Today Georgian Armed Forces started a mass operation to clear Sukhumi's outskirts of the invaders. Preliminary data show that dozens of fighters have been killed and more than 200 wounded. The operation, led by Georgian Defense Minister Giorgi Karkarashvili, is under way.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 23 September adds: "According to Georgian sources, dozens of guerrillas who broke into the outskirts of Sukhumi and occupied residential areas have been eliminated."]

Army Says Road Cleared, Sukhumi Reached

LD2409082293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] We would like to start our bulletin with the information that we brought to you 10 minutes ago, and is the most important and best news: Information from the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry says that 1st Army Corps troops led by General Jemal Chumburidze, General Mamuka Lekurashvili, Colonel Ajia Barbakadze, and Davit Tevzadze, have cleared the Sukhumi-Ochamchira highway of rebels, entered Sukhumi, and reunited with those defending the town.

Abkhaz Position Said Eroding

LD2309151693 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 23 September—According to an IBERIA correspondent, yesterday and today the situation in Abkhazia changed dramatically in favor of the Georgian side.

Having captured a strategic height in Ochamchire Rayon, Georgian forces broke through toward the Kodori River.

An IBERIA correspondent, quoting reliable sources, is reporting that the Abkhaz side is suffering a shortage of bullets.

The Gudauta leadership is panic-stricken. Vladislav Ardzinba has tried to get in touch with Shevardnadze several times, but without any success.

Ardzinba Seeks Talks With Shevardnadze

AU2309124893 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept 23 (AFP)—Abkhazian separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba called for urgent talks with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze on Thursday [24 September], amid reports that government troops had control of a key road leading to the main city of Sukhumi.

The press center of the Abkhazian parliament told AFP by phone that Ardzinba had requested a meeting with Shevardnadze after one week of fierce fighting for control of Sukhumi.

Georgian military commander Vladimir Chikovani said the request was prompted by the Georgian rebuff of Abkhazian rebels to the south and the seizure by government troops of the route linking Sukhumi to the southern village of Ochamchira.

According to the press service of the Abkhazian parliament, Georgian forces used fighter planes to bomb villages south of Sukhumi and had received reinforcements in their offensive on Abkhazian defence lines.

Chikovani meanwhile said "events in Russia" had greatly contributed in helping Georgian troops gain ground in Abkhazia, stating that "destructive forces" in Moscow were not able to provide the rebels with weapons and manpower necessary to continue the battle.

The Georgian commander was referring to President Boris Yeltsin's decision to dissolve the conservative-dominated parliament and hold new elections.

Abkhazians Advance Toward Rail Station

LD2309222893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2054 GMT 23 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our correspondent Ruslan Khashig has sent us a report on the view of events from the Abkhazian side. The Abkhazian armed forces are engaged in fierce fighting on the approaches to the central part of the city of Sukhumi. Today, in the northeastern part of the capital, after liberating a number of areas, Abkhazian subunits advanced toward the railroad station, he reports. Fighting is taking place 500 meters from the Abkhazian Council of Ministers building. Georgian soldiers, who had been surrounded for over 24 hours in the new housing estate, are now beginning to surrender.

The Georgian command continues to make intensive use of aircraft. Bomb attacks are being made on the city's liberated residential districts and on villages in Sukhumskiy Rayon. There are casualties among civilians.

Sukhumi Attacked From 3 Directions

LD2409094093 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 0830 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Sukhumi, 24 Sep—Sukhumi was under shelling throughout yesterday and last night, when more than 700 Grad missiles landed.

Sukhumi has been under a mass attack from three directions since this morning. The Abkhazian side is trying to take the town before units of the Georgian Armed Forces, on their way from Ochamchire, enter Sukhumi.

At the moment, battles are continuing at the approaches to Adziuzhba.

Further on Abkhazian Offensive

AU2409100393 Paris AFP in English 0913 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, Sept 24 (AFP)—Separatist forces in Abkhazia launched a large-scale offensive on Friday to capture Sukhumi amid reports that Georgian reinforcements were nearing the city, the Georgian Defence Ministry said here.

Abkhazian rebels attacked from all sides and had penetrated inside a northern residential district of Sukhumi at 10:00 A.M. (0600 GMT) as Georgian troops were said to be only 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the limits of the city.

Sukhumi came under constant heavy shelling as Abkhazian fighters called on all their reserve forces to join the battle, according to Defence Ministry.

The Defence Ministry said there were many casualties among civilians and that Georgian reinforcements were attempting to break through Abkhazian defence lines from the east.

Telephone Link Remains Out

LD2309225893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1507 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The telephone line connecting Tbilisi with Sukhumi remains out. A group of repairmen from the Ministry of Communications cannot do anything because of the armed conflict in the area. There is a radio link with the besieged city.

TV Tower Attacked; Hostages Taken

LD2409115493 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 24 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 24 Sep—Today, in the parliament's oval hall, a briefing was held led by Parliament's press center chairman Mr. Chelidze. He told journalists about the situation in Sukhumi. According to him, now (at 1430), battles are under way in the outskirts of Sukhumi. Groups of Abkhazian separatists have occupied different buildings and are conducting battles from there. The television mast has been put out of operation.

Fierce battles are under way at the Kodori River.

In the village of Akhaldaba, the Abkhazian side has taken around 300 people hostage, among them women and children. The Abkhazians are threatening to exterminate the hostages if the Georgian Armed Forces continue attacking in the direction of Kodori.

It is a possibility that the telephone connection with Sukhumi, which has been cut off for four days, will have been restored by this evening.

Planes Attacked Over Sukhumi 23, 24 Sep

Passenger Plane 'Blown Up'

LD2309133993 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1250 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 23 September—According to an IBERIA correspondent, the Abkhaz side has been shelling Sukhumi Airport today from both sea and land, as a result of which a Tu-134 passenger plane that was about to take off was blown up (this is the third passenger plane to have been blown up over the last few days).

There were mainly refugees from Sukhumi aboard the plane. There are wounded. The number of the dead is not yet known.

Plane 'Shot Down'; No Deaths Reported

AU2309133193 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Tbilisi, Sept 23 (AFP)—A Georgian civilian airliner trying to take off from the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi for Tbilisi was shot down by Akhazian forces Thursday, the Georgian press center in Tbilisi said.

The center said no one was killed aboard the Tupolev 134 but many people were understood to have been seriously hurt, including women and children.

It was the third airliner to be shot down over Sukhumi airport in three days by Abkhazian separatists, with the death of more than 100 passengers.

Flights coming to Sukhumi have been bringing volunteer fighters and supplies. They then take out refugees when they leave. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze on 'Barbaric' Action

LD2309141793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] [Abkhaz] separatists committed another barbaric act today. They shot down a passanger plane over Sukhumi Airport using heat-seeking missiles.

I remember, said [State Council Chairman] Shevardnadze, that when the Korean plane was downed, the whole world was terrified. This is the second time in two days that a plane with civilians aboard has been shot down in Sukhumi. I think that this barbaric act must shake up the whole world.

Georgian Armed Forces have been successfully attacking Ochamchire Rayon. They have, once again, come close to

Sukhumi. If the Ochamchire-Zugdidi blockade is broken, and the Georgian soldiers enter Sukhumi with one aim, then the corridor, Zugdidi-Sukhumi, Tbilisi-Sukhumi, Kutaisi-Sukhumi and Batumi-Sukhumi, unlike the corridor suggested by Abkhaz separatists, will become the corridor of justice, Georgia's integrity and victory. It will then reach out to the river Psou and restore centuries-old relations between the Georgians and the Abkhazians. It must never be locked again.

Georgia's fate is being determined today in Abkhazia. Separatists and their protectors want Sukhumi's fall to herald Georgia's disintegration. We are sure that our people, every citizen, irrespective of their political stance, will be fighting for Georgia's unity and integrity, said Shevardnadze at the end of his speech.

Abkhazians Down Military Plane 23 Sep

LD2309152493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] The Abkhazian Defense Minister reported to Interfax that a SU-25 assault aircraft of the Georgian Air Force was brought down above Sukhumi approximately at 10:40 on September 23. The aircraft fell near the village of Esheri. There is no information concerning the fate of the pilot.

Second Su-25 Downed 24 Sep

LD2409092893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Sep—At 0700 this morning the Abkhazian air-defense forces shot down an Su-25 low-flying attack aircraft of the Georgian Air Force in the area of hostilities in the eastern section of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone.

This is already the third combat aircraft of the Georgian Air Force downed by the Abkhazian side over the last 24 hours, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press center of the Abkhazian representative in Russia.

Black Sea Fleet Ships Begin Evacuating Refugees

LD2309173993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Sep—A detachment of the Black Sea Fleet ships, after making a crossing from Sevastopol to Sukhumi, has begun evacuating refugees this evening from the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The action is being carried out at the request of the Georgian Government and on agreement with the Russian and Ukrainian leaders, an ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by a source at the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow.

Abkhazians Block Evacuation

LD2409121993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 24 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Poman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 24 TASS—The detachment of ships from the Black Sea Fleet which arrived Thursday evening in the area of Sukhumi has not yet been able to fulfill its humanitarian mission of evacuating refugees, the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet informed ITAR-TASS.

Ships from the Black Sea Fleet were ready to evacuate refugees from the area of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict at seven o'clock Thursday evening (Moscow time). This action was undertaken at the request of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and in agreement with Russian and Ukrainian leaders.

However, Abkhazia withdrew its earlier promises to guarantee the safety of the ships and announced its demand for a written agreement between Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia on the evacuation of civilians.

Negotiations between Abkhazian representatives, the representative of Russia's State Committee for Emergencies, Yuriy Dyakov, and representatives of the Georgian Government and the Black Sea Fleet have so far gone nowhere.

Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, has ordered his ships to leave the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone and await the decision of the Abkhazian authorities.

Headquarters of the Black sea Fleet reported this afternoon that, according to information from the minesweeper "Sniper", the ship observed many corpses being carried by the current in the area off Cape Sukhumi and Gudauta. The corpses belong mainly to half-naked women with signs of a violent death. Some of the corpses were picked up at 11 o'clock by an Abkhazian medical cutter.

Chikvaidze Appeals to UN Secretary General on Abkhazia

LD2309205893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1752 GMT 23 Sep 93

[By GIA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 23 Sep—Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze today sent a message to the UN secretary general. The appeal, inter alia, says that on 23 September, thousands of women of various nationalities left the Georgian capital to begin an unprecedented march of action to the besieged town of Sukhumi. They are going under the slogan: "Whom we gave life to, we ourselves shall defend." The aim of the action is a cease-fire in Abkhazia.

The appeal contains a request that all the means that the UN secretary general has at his disposal be used to halt the fighting, stop aggression, and call on the Russian side to fulfill the obligations as a guarantor of peace, which it has taken upon itself.

Otherwise, in the minister's opinion, this conflict may turn into a catastrophe for the Caucasus, which is fraught with unpredictable consequences for the whole world. At the same time, the appeal expresses the conviction that only democratic Russia is capable of establishing good-neighborly relations with the new states—the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Chikvaidze, Russian Envoy Discuss Assaults on Servicemen

LD2309230593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Text] On 22 September, Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze met Vladimir Zemskiy, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia. Problems caused by the assaults on Russian servicemen were discussed at the meeting. In Chikvaidze's opinion, the attacks result from the complication of the crime situation in Georgia. It was emphasized that the Georgian Foreign Ministry would spare no effort to assist law enforcement bodies in identifying criminals involved in such activities. The situation in the Abkhazian conflict zone also was discussed at the meeting.

Envoy to Moscow: 'Closer Integration' With CIS Desired

LD2309180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Report by correspondents Dmitriy Vosboinikov, Yegor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze would like to fly to Moscow as early as possible but at the moment he is unable to do so for safety reasons, Interfax has been told by the Georgian Ambassador in Russia Valerian Advadze.

He said that Shevardnadze, with whom he had held a telephone talk Wednesday, wanted to voice personal support for President Yeltsin on the occasion of his decree on the gradual constitutional reform in Russia, and to take part in the C.I.S. Summit.

However, said Advadze, due to constant shelling of Sukhumi, where the Georgian leader has based himself, his flight to Moscow seems risky and is under question.

The Georgian Ambassador has said if Shevardnadze is unable to come to Moscow, Georgia will be represented at the summit by the republic's prime minister Otar Patsatsia as an observer. The latter, said the ambassador, will also have powers of the head of state.

Advadze said it was not ruled out that Georgia, which is not a member of the Commonwealth of Independent States, would join an economic union to be formed within the CIS as an associate member.

He said there was much desire in Georgia for "closer integration" with the CIS, the idea having the greatest support among officials in the country's economic administration and among ordinary workers, for "it's mainly them that have been feeling the negative effects of the severance of economic ties."

Asked about the Russian-Georgian agreements on economic cooperation signed last month, the ambassador said many of them "still only exist on paper." Neither does the new exacerbation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, which "has caused an extremely tense situation in the country," help to put those agreements into practice, Advadze said.